Photo: Winnie and Joseph Robert Lambert in their Roosevelt Post Office/Home

JOHN LAMBERT'S DESCENDANTS IN THE UINTAH BASIN

By Kim Bateman

September 2025

Introduction

I have attempted to tell the story of the Uintah Basin in Utah through the eyes and writings of several descendants of John Lambert and two in-law families, Robert Michie and David Orson Mackay, all of whom moved from Summit and Wasatch Counties to settle Ashley Valley in the late 19th Century and/or participated in the opening of the Ute Reservation to homesteading in the first decade of the 20th. To make the task even more difficult, I have tried to simultaneously relate the concurrent story of the Native American Ute tribes.

I quickly found out that such a task requires me to ignore much of the history of the Basin to keep the project to a manageable size, and at the same time fill serious gaps in the stories of the families, which I have tried to do through reasonable guesses. I have tried to be clear when I am speculating, and I ask for forgiveness and correction when needed. And while I have tried to accurately present the history of the Utes, I confess that my effort is both inadequate in scope and wholly from a white person's perspective.

Still, I hope that the reader can find the story interesting and informative, as I have.

I have taken liberty to assign a single consistent name for recurrent characters who confusingly appear in family records under various forms and spellings. For example, Joseph Robert Lambert appears in histories, correspondence, memories, and documents as J. R., J. Robert, Robert, Grandpa, and Rob, but I will always call him Robert (except in direct quotations.)

I am grateful for the many descendants of these pioneers who have passed on their stories and photographs, especially for my wife Linda Lambert Bateman and her brother Roger Lambert for assisting my research and proofreading my writing, and also my daughter Katie Summers.

And special thanks to the staff at the Uintah County Library Regional History Center in Vernal, the Duchesne County Recorder's office, and the History Center in the Duchesne Branch Library, for their help with maps, photos, and other resources.

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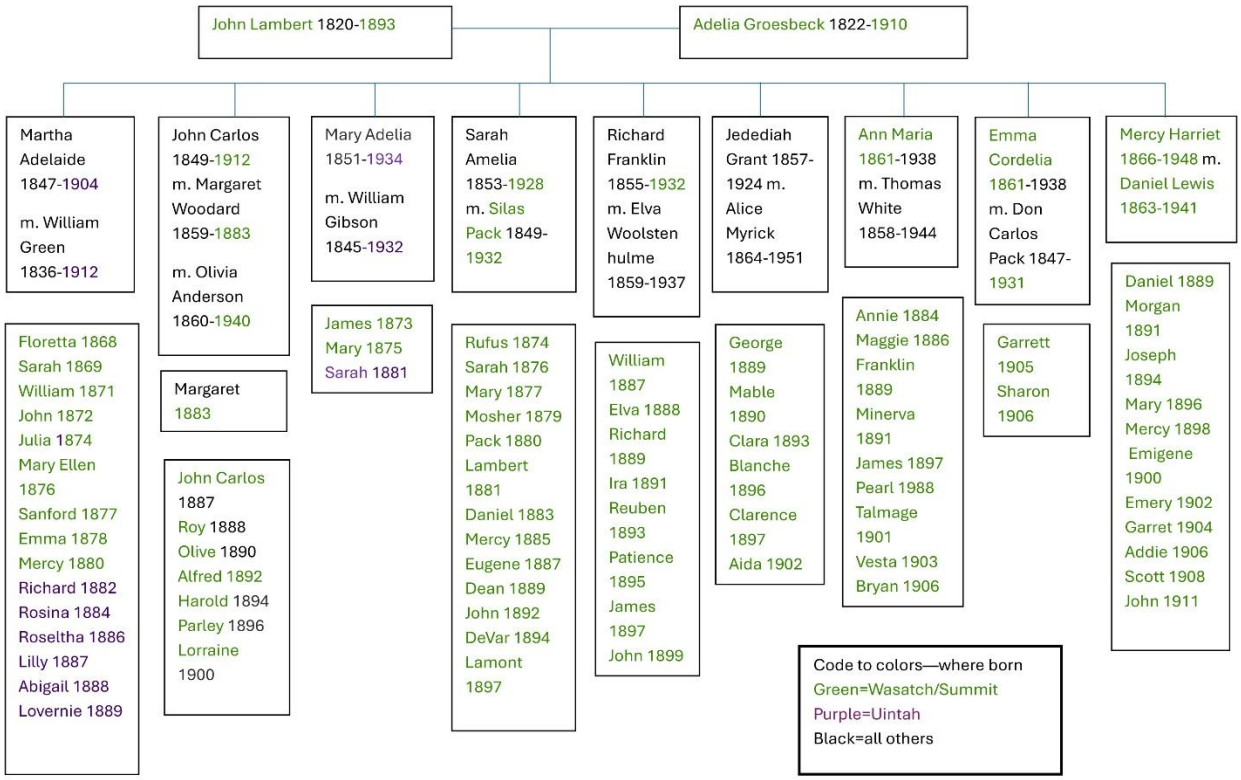
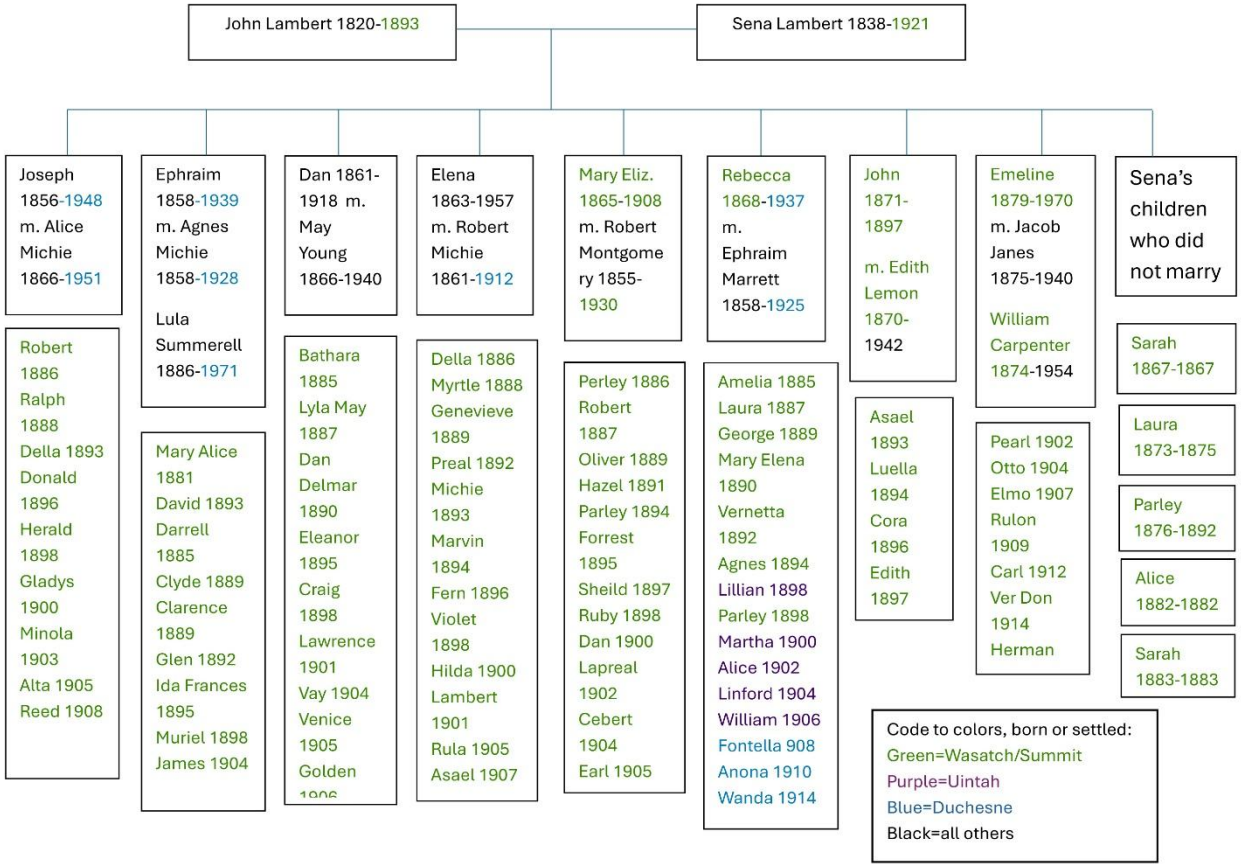
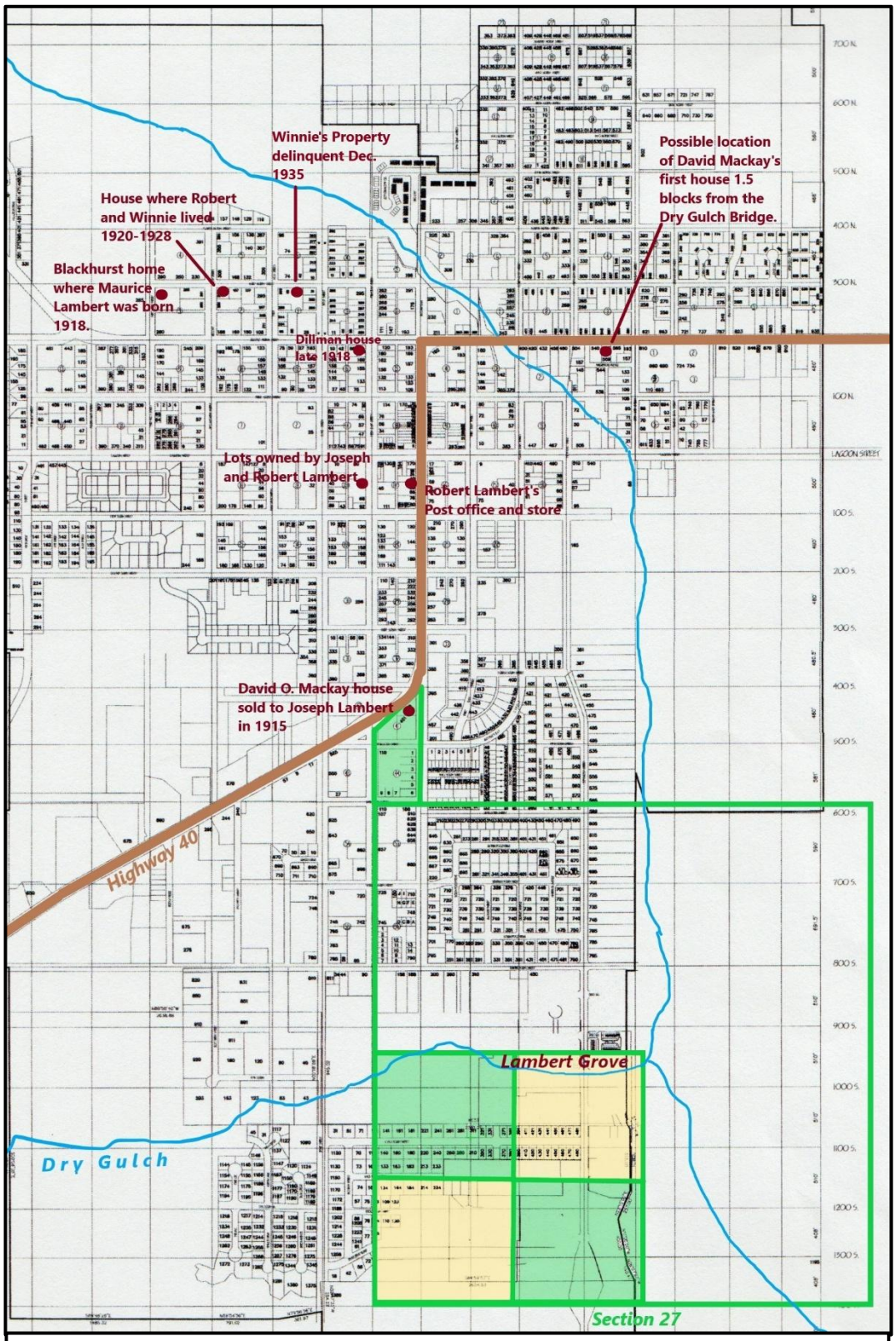
Spring City, Utah


John Lambert 1820-1893
Adelia Groesbeck 1822-1910
Martha Adelaide 1847-1904
m. William Green 1836-1912
Floretta 1868
Sarah 1869
William 1871
John 1872
Julia 1874
Mary Ellen 1876
Sanford 1877
Emma 1878
Mercy 1880
Richard 1882
Rosina 1884
Roseltha 1886
Lilly 1887
Abigail 1888
Lovernie 1889
John Carlos 1849-1912
m. Margaret Woodard 1859-1883
m. Olivia Anderson 1860-1940
Margaret 1883
John Carlos 1887
Roy 1888
Olive 1890
Alfred 1892
Harold 1894
Parley 1896
Lorraine 1900
Mary Adelia 1851-1934
m. William Gibson 1845-1932
James 1873
Mary 1875
Sarah 1881
Sarah Amelia 1853-1928
m. Silas Pack 1849-1932
Rufus 1874
Sarah 1876
Mary 1877
Mosher 1879
Pack 1880
Lambert 1881
Daniel 1883
Mercy 1885
Eugene 1887
Dean 1889
John 1892
DeVar 1894
Lamont 1897
Richard Franklin 1855-1932
m. Elva Woolsten hulme 1859-1937
William 1887
Elva 1888
Richard 1889
Ira 1891
Reuben 1893
Patience 1895
James 1897
John 1899
Jedediah Grant 1857-1924 m. Alice Myrick 1864-1951
George 1889
Mable 1890
Clara 1893
Blanche 1896
Clarence 1897
Aida 1902
Ann Maria 1861-1938 m. Thomas White 1858-1944
Annie 1884
Maggie 1886
Franklin 1889
Minerva 1891
James 1897
Pearl 1988
Talmage 1901
Vesta 1903
Bryan 1906
Emma Cordelia 1861-1938 m. Don Carlos Pack 1847-1931
Garrett 1905
Sharon 1906
Mercy Harriet 1866-1948 m. Daniel Lewis 1863-1941
Daniel 1889
Morgan 1891
Joseph 1894
Mary 1896
Mercy 1898
Emigene 1900
Emery 1902
Garret 1904
Addie 1906
Scott 1908
John 1911
Code to colors—where born
Green=Wasatch/Summit
Purple=Uintah
Black=all others


John Lambert 1820-1893
Sena Lambert 1838-1921
Joseph 1856-1948 m. Alice Michie 1866-1951
Robert 1886
Ralph 1888
Della 1893
Donald 1896
Herald 1898
Gladys 1900
Minola 1903
Alta 1905
Reed 1908
Ephraim 1858-1939 m. Agnes Michie 1858-1928
Lula Summerell 1886-1971
Mary Alice 1881
David 1893
Darrell 1885
Clyde 1889
Clarence 1889
Glen 1892
Ida Frances 1895
Muriel 1898
James 1904
Dan 1861-1918 m. May Young 1866-1940
Bathara 1885
Lyla May 1887
Dan
Delmar 1890
Eleanor 1895
Craig 1898
Lawrence 1901
Vay 1904
Venice 1905
Golden 1906
Elena 1863-1957 m. Robert Michie 1861-1912
Della 1886
Myrtle 1888
Genevieve 1889
Preal 1892
Michie 1893
Marvin 1894
Fern 1896
Violet 1898
Hilda 1900
Lambert 1901
Rula 1905
Asael 1907
Mary Eliz. 1865-1908 m. Robert Montgomery 1855-1930
Perley 1886
Robert 1887
Oliver 1889
Hazel 1891
Parley 1894
Forrest 1895
Sheild 1897
Ruby 1898
Dan 1900
Lapreal 1902
Cebert 1904
Earl 1905
Rebecca 1868-1937 m. Ephraim Marrett 1858-1925
Amelia 1885
Laura 1887
George 1889
Mary Elena 1890
Vernetta 1892
Agnes 1894
Lillian 1898
Parley 1898
Martha 1900
Alice 1902
Linford 1904
William 1906
Fontella 908
Anona 1910
Wanda 1914
John 1871-1897 m. Edith Lemon 1870-1942
Asael 1893
Luella 1894
Cora 1896
Edith 1897
Emeline 1879-1970 m. Jacob Janes 1875-1940
William Carpenter 1874-1954
Pearl 1902
Otto 1904
Elmo 1907
Rulon 1909
Carl 1912
Ver Don 1914
Herman
Sena's children who did not marry
Sarah 1867-1867
Laura 1873-1875
Parley 1876-1892
Alice 1882-1882
Sarah 1883-1883
Code to colors, born or settled:
Green=Wasatch/Summit
Purple=Uintah
Blue=Duchesne
Black=all others


Winnie's Property delinquent Dec. 1935
House where Robert and Winnie lived 1920-1928
Blackhurst home where Maurice Lambert was born 1918.
Possible location of David Mackay's first house 1.5 blocks from the Dry Gulch Bridge.
Dillman house late 1918
Lots owned by Joseph and Robert Lambert
Robert Lambert's Post office and store
David O. Mackay house sold to Joseph Lambert in 1915
Highway 40
Lambert Grove
Dry Gulch
Section 27

Lambert and Mackay properties superimposed on 1963 Map of Roosevelt. Joseph Lambert farms in green and Ephram Lambert farms in yellow.

Chapter One – The Uintah Basin

The Uintah Basin is a broad, semi-arid geological depression in northeastern Utah bordered by the Uinta Mountains on the north and the Tavaputs Plateau on the south, traversed by the Green and Duchesne Rivers. The first humans known to have inhabited the Uintah Basin are the Folsom people, who hunted a now extinct species of bison over 12,000 years ago using spears tipped with distinctive fluted flint points similar to those used by the still older Clovis culture. Their traces have been discovered 13 miles south of Roosevelt in Pleasant Valley.[1] Traces of Ancestral Pueblos, known as Basket Makers, who lived between 1500 BCE and 500 CE, can be seen at Nine Mile Canyon and near Jensen. They lived in caves, buried their dead in baskets, and hunted using an atlatl before the bow and arrow were invented. Pueblos followed, and later the Fremont people came to Nine Mile Canyon. Many other cultures followed including Basket Makers II and III, whose artifacts are found in Grand Gulch. Signs of their canals and reservoirs have been discovered in the Uintah Basin.[2] The Anasazi followed and disappeared around 800 CE, replaced by the Fremont Culture.

Folsom point around 1.75”

The Utes probably arrived around 1300 CE. Prior to the arrival of European and American settlers the Utes covered most of present Utah, Colorado, and northern New Mexico. They interacted enough to support a common language, although they lived as separate bands and even smaller family units. When Europeans arrived, there were at least ten distinct bands of Utes in what is now Colorado and in Utah, the state which was named after them. In pre-horse days, Ute family groups lived largely independently as nomadic hunter/gatherers, but around 1680 they began using horses obtained from the Spanish, which helped them to become plains hunters, raiders, and traders.

The first white man known to set foot in Utah was the Franciscan Friar Silvestre Veleze de Escalante, who came with a contingent of ten Spanish men looking for a northern route from Santa Fe to Monterey, California. Following the Green River, which in his diary he called Rio Buenaventura (Beautiful Adventure),[3] they came up against the Uinta Mountains and made a sharp turn to the left, crossing the Green River on September 13, 1776, about

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[1] Dillman, Mildred Miles, Early History of Duchesne County, Art City Publishing Co., Springville, Utah 1948, p. 44.
[2] Dillman, p. 48.
[3] Builders of Uintah, A Centennial History of Uintah County 1872-1947, Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, 1947, p. 9.

four miles above Jensen.[4] They traveled west up the Uintah and Duchesne Rivers to where the Strawberry River joins the Duchesne River at the present site of the town of Duchesne. From there they followed the Strawberry River to the divide, crossed the summit to Diamond Fork around September 24th or 25th, and descended along the Spanish Fork River into Utah Valley.

Trappers and traders, who came as early as 1820 when Ashley Valley was under Mexican control, named the river "Rei Colorado of the West," but when General William N. Ashley and Andrew Henry, the founder of Rocky mountain Fur Company, went on a trapping expedition in 1824, Ashley renamed it Green River in honor of a friend in St. Louis.[5] They took Jim Bridger as a guide and met Etienne Provost in a valley in the eastern part of the basin which is now named for General Ashley.

They took the North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail through Southwestern Colorado, which ran from Sante Fe to the Salt Lake Valley and on to Los Angeles. That trail was used by trappers to access large areas of western Colorado and eastern Utah, and among its primary destinations were Antoine Robidoux's trading posts, which were licensed by the Mexican government. The first of these was at the confluence of the Green and Duchesne (then called Uintah) Rivers in the early 1830s and the other near present Whiterocks. One was at the Ute Fort Uncompahgre near present-day Delta, Colorado and the other at Fort Uintah in the Basin. It was also a principal route for trade with the Utes, who traded in horses and slaves.

In 1828 four white men (Toopeechee Reed, Jim Reed, Denis Julien, and Augustus Archambeau), French traders from Kentucky, set up a trading post near a spring of water just southeast of White Rocks known as the Reed Trading Post, about 16 miles north of the present town of Roosevelt. Kit Carson set up another trading post known as Fort Kit Carson across the Green River from Ouray in 1833 about 33 miles southeast of Roosevelt.

The trapper Antoine Robidoux constructed Fort Robidoux or Fort "Uinta" near the present site of White Rocks in the winter of 1837-1838 after he and his brother had traded for several years in the basin. The fort is said to have been visited by Kit Carson, Jim Bridger, and many other fur traders.[6]

Protestant missionaries from Oregon visited the fort on October 20, 1842. Another visitor that year was Marcus Whitman, an American physician and Protestant missionary, who wrote:

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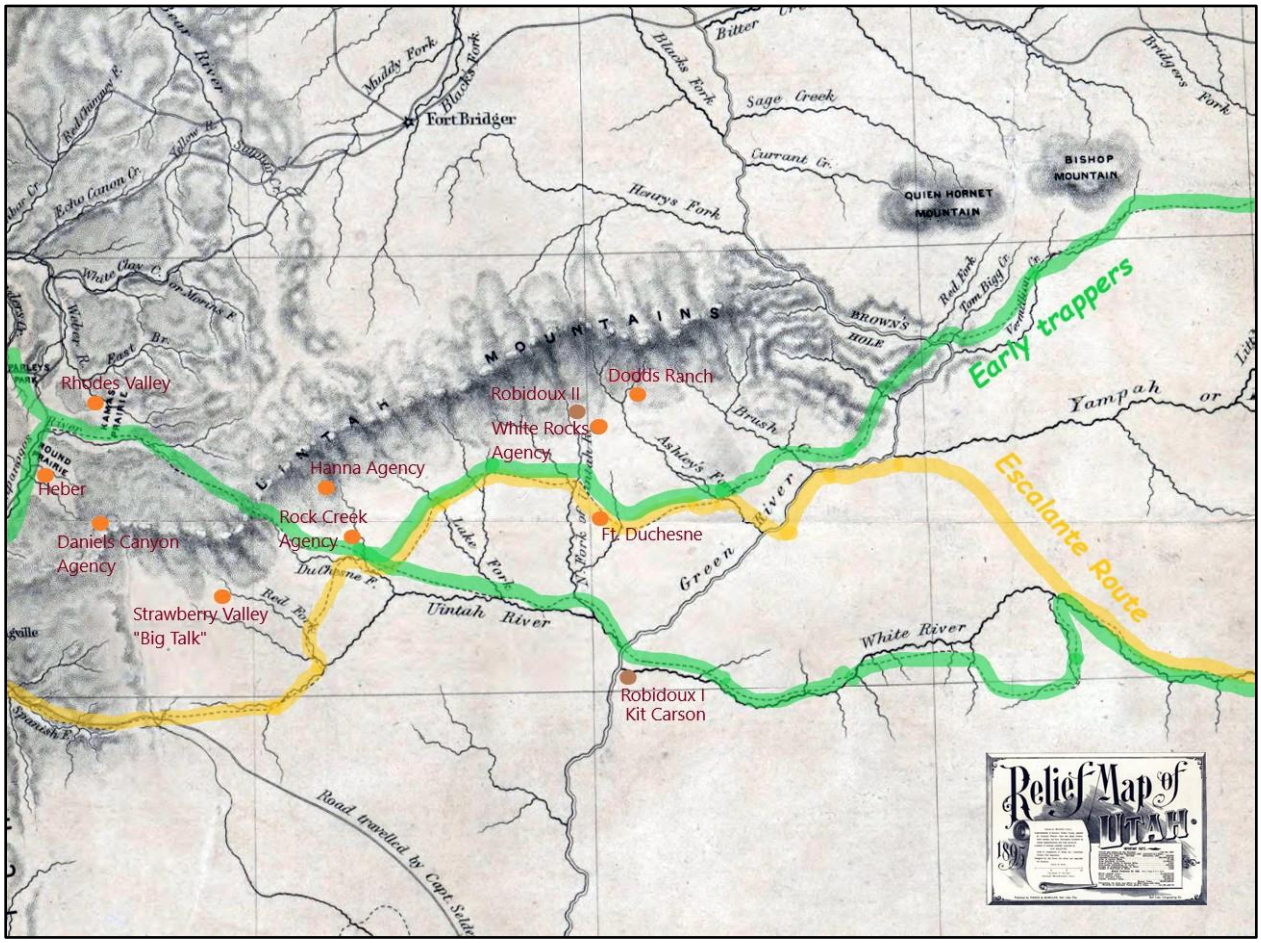
[4] Mildred Miles Dillman, Early History of Duchesne County, 1948, p. 65
[5] There is another story that Green was one of Ashley's trappers. *FamilySearch* Memories, KVP1-RST.
[6] A. Reed Morrill, Utah Historical Quarterly Volume 9, Number 1-4, 1941.

We reached the fort about two o'clock. We had to wait there for Mr. Robidoux about eighteen days, till he and his company and horse drivers were ready to start with us for the U.S. This delay was very disagreeable to me, on account of the wickedness of the people, and the drunkenness and swearing, and the debauchery of the men among the Indian women... I tried several times to preach to them, but with little if any effect. Mr. Robidoux had collected several of the Indian squaws and young Indians to take to New Mexico and kept some of them for his own use. The Spaniards would buy them for wives.[7]



Captain John C. Fremont visited the fort in 1844. After his visit that year, the fort was burned to the ground by Ute braves and all the white men were massacred. Robidoux was away at the time and escaped.

[7] Gregory C. Thompson, A Short History of the Uintah Basin, Utah, https://collections.lib.utah.edu/ark:/87278/s6t76vbg

Brigham Young's vanguard party of pioneers began their settlement in the Salt Lake Valley in July 1847 and soon met the local Native American tribes. Their relationship was generally peaceful during the early months, and there was some trading.

As more Mormons gathered in the valley, Brigham Young generally advocated a policy of separation and fairness, instructing settlers to trade with Native Americans in their own camps and to deal with them honestly, but the peace in Utah Territory was disrupted in March 1848,[8] when a group of Native Americans stole some livestock near Utah Lake. This was the first of many instances of conflict arising from disputes over resources. A posse of about 45 men was sent in pursuit of the group.

Hoping to relieve tensions, a prominent Ute chief named Walkara, led a large group of Utes to Salt Lake City to meet with the Mormon settlers late that summer. This first meeting left both groups with a favorable impression of each other, the Mormons describing the Utes as "good-looking, brave and intelligent." But in March 1849 there was a violent confrontation between Mormon settlers in Utah Valley and a local band of Timpanogos Ute Indians over stolen horses known as the Battle Creek Canyon Massacre, in which a number of Timpanogos Utes were killed.

An early attempt to improve relations was made with a treaty negotiated in December 1849 by U.S. Indian agent John Wilson, who had been appointed earlier that year. However, this treaty, which would have created a large reservation for the Utes in the Uintah Valley, was never ratified by the U.S. Senate.

In the late 1850s, federal officials in the Utah Territory, including a new Superintendent of Indian Affairs named Jacob Forney, began to strongly advocate for the formal creation of a reservation in the Uintah Valley. They saw this as a way to alleviate conflict, provide a designated area for the Ute people, and further the government's assimilation policies by encouraging agriculture and a sedentary lifestyle. The Uintah Valley was often described as remote and less desirable for white settlement at the time, making it a candidate for a reservation.

The Utah Territorial Indian Agency was created by Congress in 1851 as a part of the Indian Appropriations Act to oversee Indian affairs, which was primarily aimed at the time to Indian Territory in present day Oklahoma. This was the beginning of the national "reservation era" that exists to this day, which provided funds to move tribes onto designated farming reservations with the aim of exerting greater control over them.

[8] This was just a month after the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the Mexican War and ceded Mexico's north American territories to the United States.

To save timber, Brigham Young encouraged the pioneers to look for coal deposits for heating, which had the effect of motivating the pioneers to explore the surrounding areas, further advancing into incursions into Ute territories. The legislature offered $100 for discoveries of coal veins of at least 18 inches found within 40 miles of Salt Lake City. Thomas Rhoades hunted for coal in the North Fork of the Provo River, crossed the Weber River, and climbed to "Skunk's Point," where he found coal on an outcropping and took a sample to Brigham Young. At the same time, he discovered a fertile valley later known as Kamas Prairie, which he soon settled.

The Walker War began on July 17, 1853, with a dispute between Mormons and Utes trading at James Ivie's home near Springville. Ivie killed a relative of Chief Walkara named Shoer-o-cats. In reprisal, Arapeen killed a guard in Payson named Alexander Keel. Utah County militia under Peter W. Conover led a punitive expedition of 150 men up Salt Creek Canyon east of Nephi to try to intercept Walkara and his followers and ended up killing six Indians at Pleasant Creek in the Sanpete Valley. Violence continued on both sides until Brigham Young and Walkara met at Chicken Creek in Juab County on May 11, 1854. But tensions continued, which later led to the larger and longer Blackhawk War.

Between 1855 and 1860, the Indian Agent Garland Hurt and Brigham Young organized Indian farms at Spanish Fork, Sanpete, and Corn Creek, hoping to encourage Utes to settle down and farm. But believing that staying in one place meant certain starvation–a belief borne out by consistent crop failures–many Utes resisted agrarian settlement, and the farms collapsed. In the meantime, Mormon explorations and movement into traditional Ute hunting grounds continued.

In September of 1855, W. W. Phelps and Thomas Rhoades explored the Summit County area, following Silver Creek into Coalville and the Weber River into the Kamas Prairie. Meeting at Fillmore, the new Utah Territorial Legislature granted to Brigham Young and Thomas Rhoades all of the Kamas Prairie that December. Hoping to quickly move forward on their land grant, Rhoades wrote a letter urging Brigham Young to recruit a group of settlers during the April Conference of 1856.

John Lambert was one of a group of 15-20 men sent to the area of the Rhoades Ranch around late October 1856 to explore the Kamas prairie and build a stockade between the present towns of Kamas and Marion. John was a 35 year old Mormon from Yorkshire, England, who had come to Nauvoo in 1840 with three siblings. After living in St. Joseph and Kansas City, Missouri, he and his family arrived in the Salt Lake Valley in 1850 after stays in St. Joseph and Kansas City, Missouri.

In exploring the new territory, John left his widowed mother, two pregnant wives, and six children aged 20 months to nine years old in the Salt Lake Valley with no man in the house. Soon after John left, his second wife Eline Hansine Larsen[9] bore her first child, Joseph Heber Lambert.[10] John Lambert and his two young families went on to colonize the Kamas Prairie, the Heber Valley, and ultimately the Uintah Basin. The rest of this story will mainly be told from their perspective.

John Lambert

The exploring party built the stockade near a spring about a mile and a quarter from the center of present Kamas and returned to Salt Lake in the spring of 1857 because of Indian threats. John Lambert's first wife, Adelia, bore her sixth child, Jedediah Grant Lambert,[11] shortly after his return.

W. W. Phelps, who had initially discovered the Kamas valley with Rhoades, returned to the area three weeks after the LDS general spring conference with another group of men to fortify Peoa, about eight miles short of Rhoades' ranch. He reported his trip in a letter to the *Deseret News* on May 20th.

> Week before last I made a trip to the Weber River in company with 28 men, one boy, and a woman, 30 in all—for the purpose of laying out a fort and farming land on said river below Kamas Prairie or Rhoades' Ranch, some six or eight miles north, and between 30 and 40 from this city in a south-easterly direction. I surveyed between 20 and 30 lots of from 10 to 22 ½ acres each, of tolerable fair appearance for grain and meadow land… I located a fort 40 yards square with 10 each way making 60

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[9] Eline Hansine Larsen was known to her family as "Sena," the term I will use in this story.

[10] Joseph Heber Lambert was mostly called Joseph or Joe, although his living ancestors know him as Joseph Heber. He was probably simply called Joseph most of the time. For example, he was "Joseph" (or occasionally Joseph H.) in all eight U.S. censuses. He signed two letters as a Mormon missionary "J. H. Lambert." His wife Alice addressed him as "Dear Husband," but sent her letters to "Mr. Joseph H. Lambert." The only official document I could find that called him "Joseph Heber Lambert" was his death certificate, but of course that information did not come from him personally. The sexton and his gravestone both used "Joseph H." For the sake of simplicity and clarity, in this book I will call him Joseph and call his son Robert.

[11] Adelia chose the name to honor Jedediah H. Grant, the young Mormon Apostle known as "the sledge hammer," who inspired the Mormon Reformation which began during the exact time of John Lambert's trip to Rhoades Valley. According to the Mormon historian B.H. Roberts, the Reformation began in Kaysville on September 13, 1856, to the theme "Saints, live your religion." On the third day of the conference, five hundred people were re-baptized as a sign that they had renewed their religious covenants.

> rods square for gardens and for other purposes and called the Fort Peoa. Logs were cut and hauled for several houses, grain (was) sown, and potatoes planted.

But plans to colonize the Kamas Prairie were put on hold when at the Pioneer Day Celebration in Big Cottonwood Canyon on July 24, 1857, Porter Rockwell gave Brigham Young the disturbing news that the U.S. Army was mobilizing at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas to pacify the Mormons. Worried about Johnston's advance, Brigham Young ordered that the foundations of the temple be covered with dirt to hide them, and on September 15th he declared the Territory of Utah to be under martial law.

John Lambert was a member of the militia of about 2,250 men called the Nauvoo Legion, who were ordered to fortify Echo Canyon, the primary route the U.S. Army would take to enter Salt Lake City. John was, of course, already familiar with the area having recently traveled through it on his trip to the Kamas Prairie. They built rock barricades, dug trenches, and positioned sharp shooters to slow the army's advance. Because of Mormon resistance, the U. S. Army went into winter quarters mid-November known as Camp Scott, two miles from Ft. Bridger. On March 24th, leaders of the LDS wards in Salt Lake and Weber Counties were instructed to choose provisional destinations in Utah, Juab, Millard, and Iron Counties to evacuate the Salt Lake Valley before the army could capture it.

On April 7, 1858, the evacuation known as The Move began, and the Saints fled temporarily to Utah County and further south. Since John Lambert had been assigned to guard duty, other men conducted his two families south to the Provo River bottoms where John later joined them. Soon General Johnston and almost 5,000 men marched through Salt Lake City to Camp Floyd west of Point of the Mountain, and during the summer most of the displaced Mormons returned to their homes.

Although the Utah War delayed the settlement of Kamas, interest in the neighboring Provo Valley[12] continued to grow. These two valleys through which the Provo River runs are about twelve miles apart. Many of the early settlers of the Uintah Basin would later come from these two valleys, and many more traveled through them.

While Johnston's army was still encamped at Fort Bridger in the spring of 1858, several groups of cattlemen from Provo drove their stock up the Provo River through the canyon and established ranches at the south end of what was then called the Provo Valley. George W. Bean and his father-in-law William Wall set up a ranch in the lower part of Provo Valley just above Provo Canyon. Aaron Daniels had a ranch near present Charleston. William Meeks set up a ranch about two miles southwest of present Heber City. James Adams and

[12] This is not Utah Valley where the city of Provo was situated, but in the what is now called Heber Valley.

his brother-in-law, Charles Negus Carroll, who had earlier discovered the valley from the Salt Lake side, built cabins at Center Creek between April and July 1858.

On October 13, a substantial bridge was completed over the Provo River at the mouth of the canyon by Henry Grow, who had built the first suspension bridge in Utah over the Weber River and later designed the Salt Lake Mormon Tabernacle on Temple Square. The road up Provo Canyon was completed at a cost of $19,000, which was paid for in "Deseret currency," scrip that could be used as cash at the co-op store in Salt Lake City, and the canyon soon became the preferred route in both directions for the federal army's teamsters to haul freight. William Wall noted that on November 12th that about 100 teamsters started from Camp Floyd for the States via the new Provo Canyon road, saving about 60 miles, and continued through Kamas Valley.

In the spring of 1859, eleven families from Provo and nearby settlements were called by the Church to move as a group into the Provo Valley. They chose 40-acre lots a bit north of the present site of Heber and began removing the sagebrush, staking out a settlement which they named London, since they had all immigrated from England. That summer and fall, nearly every freight train supplying the military in Camp Floyd took the new road up the canyon and through the Provo Valley. Tolls of $1 were charged per cord of wood, rock, or coal, 50 cents for light wagons and carriages, and 10 cents per person, horse, or mule. Many of the early settlers returned to Provo after planting, but seventeen families built a fort and remained for the winter. They were cut off from Utah Valley all winter except for a group of young people from Provo, who visited by sleigh over the holidays. During the winter a sawmill was built.

The Mountaineer newspaper in Salt Lake City published a letter to the editor on February 18, 1860, noting the growing interest in settling the surrounding mountain valleys, reporting, "Many speak of trying fall wheat on the table lands in the mountains, or of moving to the Weber, Kamas Prairie, or Cache Valley…for raising wheat, rye, or oats or barley." The writer went on to recommend the mountain valleys highly for stock raising as well. That spring Rhoades and George Washington Brown returned to live in their homestead on the Kamas Prairie.

That March, General Johnston left Camp Floyd for the states. Most of the federal troops followed in May, but some remained for another 14 months, when they were withdrawn due to the outbreak of the Civil War. A large number of surplus army wagons were bought cheaply in the Provo Valley. By summer there were over two hundred Mormons living there. About 40 families moved into the fort, being much less concerned about the Civil War than trouble with the Native Americans.

In November, Abraham Lincoln was elected President, and three months later the Confederate States of America was formed.

Meanwhile, the *Deseret News* reported on February 6, 1861, that "the legislature had petitioned Governor Cumming to set up a weekly mail route from Provo via Provo Canyon, Heber, Kamas Prairie, Echo, etc. to Ogden."

On April 1, 1861, John Lambert baptized his daughter Mary Adelia in Salt Lake City. She and her future husband would be early settlers of Ashley Valley[13] in the Uintah Basin.

The next month John Lambert moved his family to the Kamas prairie. His son Joseph recalled that he, "walked along with some other children and drove pigs as the ox teams took the loads." It was a 50 mile hike, and it was June before they arrived at the Rhoades Ranch in Kamas Prairie. Soon John pitched a tent on Beaver Creek a couple of miles further south of the ranch. Several of the men who had originally explored the Kamas Prairie with John Lambert four years earlier also returned that year with their families and settled permanently. The area was first called Rhoades Valley. Thomas Rhoades' two cabins had been built near the east hills between present Kamas and Marion.

According to Sena's oldest daughter, Elena Dorothy Lambert Michie, who was born two years after the move to Kamas prairie, "Neither one of (John's) wives liked it. They had at that time quite good homes made of adobes and had to leave them and live under a dirt roof." One story has it that they first lived in a tent. Sena wrote that they lived out of a wagon box. Maybe there was one family in each. The Lamberts were the first to settle where the town of Kamas is now located and built the first house there, and soon about ten other families joined them. Sena's granddaughter Myrtle Wilken wrote: "The first home was a long log building with two rooms, one at the east end for the first family. My grandmother lived in the west end with her family. Between the two rooms was a roofed-over porch where tools, harness, tubs, etc. were kept."

When the first settlers arrived, they found sagebrush as high as horses and rattlesnakes in such numbers, that it was dangerous to walk on the ground. One settler wrote that they had to work hard to clear the land of sagebrush with grubbing hoes. The cut brush was piled high and burned.

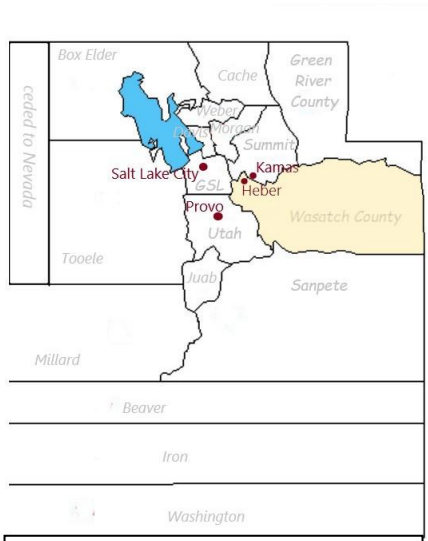
The famous trapper Jim Bridger, now 57 years old, once again crossed the Uintah Basin in July 1861, this time employed by the Central Overland Mail Company to a develop a route from Denver to Salt Lake City. Surprisingly, he found the area promising for settlement. Henry Martin, the Indian Agent for Utah had earlier recommended that the Uintah Valley be

[13] Ashley Valley later became known as Vernal.

made into a reservation, and Brigham Young had been inclined to support the idea to take pressure off the existing Mormon settlements, but after Bridger reported his positive findings to Brigham Young, the prophet needed more information before he could agree with Martin's plan. On August 25th, a list of names was read in the tabernacle of a company called to prepare the way to the Uintah Basin, where the Church hoped to settle about 200 Saints.

The *Deseret News* announced on September 11th, that the company was opening a road through the hills from Parley's Park by way of Rhoades' Ranch and Kamas Prairie to the Uintah Valley, but the exploring and surveying party soon returned with a very unfavorable report, finding the area to be a wasteland, and declared that Uintah was not what had been represented. "The fertile vales, extensive meadows, and wide pasture ranges so often reported to exist in that region were not found… The amount of land at all suitable for cultivation is extremely limited," and the enterprise was abandoned.[14] Henry Martin immediately telegraphed the Commission of Indian Affairs in Washington, and shortly thereafter the Uintah Basin, with the exception of Ashley Valley in the northeast, was set apart as a reservation for the Utah and Colorado Ute Indians by President Lincoln's executive order of October 3, 1861, making it off limits for Mormon settlement.[15] Brigham Young agreed to the proposal, having satisfied himself that the isolated area was "one vast contiguity of waste," fit only for "nomadic purposes, hunting grounds for Indians and to hold the world together." However, the Indians didn't move.

When Nevada became a territory in early 1862, most counties in Utah were revised, and Wasatch County was organized as one of 17 new counties on February 22nd. Its western border was the summit of the Wasatch range. It was bounded on the south by Sanpete County, on the west by Utah and Salt Lake Counties, north by Summit County and it stretched all the way east to Colorado.



Utah counties in 1860.

[14] Gregory C. Thompson, Short History of the Uintah Basin, p.9.

[15] This action was taken at the request of Mormon leaders and Indian agents without a treaty or direct negotiation with all the Ute bands at that specific moment, reflecting the unilateral nature of many reservation creations during this era. Congress confirmed Lincoln's order in May 1864.

With the Civil War[16] going at full tilt, on June 3, 1862, the Morrill Anti-bigamy Bill was passed by the U.S. Senate and approved by President Lincoln on July 8th, after which pressure on the Mormons began to mount. In the same legislative session, Abraham Lincoln approved an act of Congress that prohibited slavery in the territories. Partly to control the Mormons, and partly to control the Indians and keep the California trail open, Colonel Patrick Connor arrived in Salt Lake City with troops which he stationed at Camp Douglas in October. Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on the first day of January 1863.

On January 29th, Colonel Connor with about 200 troops from Ft. Douglas defeated a band of 400 Shoshone Indians in the Bear River Massacre, in which 16 soldiers and at least 225 Indians were killed north of Logan near Preston, worsening the relationship between the military and the Mormons.

Congress officially confirmed Lincoln's executive order of May 8, 1864, to create a federal Indian reservation in the Uintah River drainage, all of which was within the new Wasatch County. It was expected that the Utes, whose various tribal groups were scattered throughout Utah and Colorado would be living on the reservation within one year.

But that was not going to happen.

The Blackhawk War began in Manti, Utah when the Ute war chief Black Hawk and his friend Arapeen, the son of Chief Arapeen showed up at a town council meeting to demand compensation for the recent death of Arapeen's father, who had died near Gunnison that winter from smallpox, and they blamed it on the settlers. An argument ensued with a man named John Lowry who had accused the Indians of stealing his horses and may have been drunk. Lowry dragged the young chief from his horse by the hair and administered a severe beating before the two could be dragged apart. Two days later the Utah Blackhawk War broke out after the vengeful Black Hawk led 16 Utes to steal a cattle herd outside of Manti. A group of young settlers showed up, and one of them named Peter Ludvigson was killed trying to stop them. When the Mormon boys fled the scene, the Utes rounded up 40 cattle and headed for Salina Canyon. Two days later an 84 member group of the Sanpete militia headed by Reddick Allred tracked the Indians into the canyon, where the militia men were ambushed and sent in a panic back to Salina, leaving the bodies of two dead soldiers behind.

[16] The territories were not subject to conscription during the Civil War. Although Colorado, New Mexico, and Nebraska Territories contributed a few volunteer units to the Union side, Utah men were generally non-participants.

In response, Church authorities warned the people including those in Summit and Wasatch Counties to "put yourselves and your animals in such a condition that the Indians will be deprived of all opportunity of taking life and stealing stock."[17]

In June, Brigham Young and the federal Indian agent Colonel O. H. Irish[18] met with the chiefs and 500 warriors at Spanish Fork's Indian Farm in an unsuccessful attempt to work out a peace agreement which included moving the Utes to the Uintah Basin, giving them annual payment of $25,000, and improvements including a vocational school, grist mills, and sawmills on the reservation. The chiefs who attended were Sowiette, the chief of the Utes from Utah Valley, Tabby from the Uintah Utes, Antero and Kanosh from the Pahvant tribe, and Sanpitch from Sanpete County. All of them agreed to the terms except Sanpitch, who accepted his gifts, but refused to sign the agreement. Sanpitch's son Black Hawk almost immediately attacked a group of settlers.

Even though the hostilities were mainly in Sanpete County, Bishop William W. Cluff of Coalville was commissioned as a Colonel over the Summit County militia and directed the Saints from the areas surrounding Coalville to gather at the fort there. As a high ranking militia officer, Cluff did much more than direct settlers to the fort. He organized the militia in all of the branches over which he presided as a bishop including Peoa and the Kamas Prairie.

I have found no evidence that John Lambert, who was then 45 years old, took part in the militia, but his oldest son, Johnny certainly did. At 16, he was of prime age for duty. His obituary states, "During the Black Hawk War when the Indians were so bad, Mr. Lambert was second in command. He proved to be a valiant warrior and was always successful in recovering the stolen horses."

Johnny Lambert was second in command to William "Billy" Gibson who served as a lieutenant over ten cavalrymen in the first part of the war before the evacuation to Peoa. Bill Gibson would later marry Johnny's sister Mary Lambert, and they became the first Mormons to settle in Old Ashley, later known as Vernal.[19] Bill had moved to Rhodes Valley

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[17] https://kamasvalleyhistory.org/2022/01/01/the-forts-of-peoa/

[18] Orsamus Hylas Irish (1830-1883) served as chief of the bureau of Engraving and Printing for the U.S. government. In 1857 he moved to Nebraska territory as editor of the *Daily Press* in Nebraska City. He became Indian Agent at the Omaha Reservation on May 15, 1861, and in 1864 he was appointed Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Utah with offices in Salt Lake City. He returned to Nebraska in 1866. (Wikipedia)

[19] William Gibson was born April 25, 1845, to an Irish alcoholic shoemaker during a short stay in Kilmarnock, Scotland. His father's family moved back to Ireland, where his mother joined the LDS church in 1840. William was baptized six years later at the age of 11 in St. Louis, where his family lived for five years. There he got his schooling and learned to swim in the Mississippi River. His parents separated there (in one source). Bill went with his mother and two younger siblings to Omaha planning to join one of the 1856 handcart companies, but it was decided to delay until Bill grew older and stronger. The family immigrated in 1853 via

in 1864 at the age of 19, where he became known as an Indian fighter and a tough wrestler. He is said to have had disconcerting cat-like vertical pupils.

In Kamas, after cattle and horses were stolen several times by Indians, the people from the settlements of Kamas, Marion, Oakley, Francis, and Peoa "forted up," as Brigham Young called it. They gathered in Woodenshoe[20] by a natural spring near Peoa and built a fort measuring 80 x 60 yards out of split logs and clay, which they called Sage Bottom Fort. They had torn down the Peoa church/school building and rebuilt it in the center of the fort, which was designed to house 32 families, many of whom moved their cabins from their original locations in Peoa. The cabins were so close together that it was difficult to walk between them. The fort had a well with drinking water. A road between Rhoades Ranch and Peoa passed east of the fort, close to the foot of the hill. The Lambert family moved eight miles to Peoa in a covered wagon and lived there in a tent until the fort was completed at the end of June. Peoa settlers lived on one side of the fort and those from Rhoades Valley including the Lamberts lived on the other side.

The Blackhawk War was more serious in the south of the territory. Most settlements in Kane and Sevier Counties were abandoned. Chief Sanpitch was killed by two Mormon men and buried under a rockslide in Birch Creek Canyon between Moroni and Fountain Green after escaping from jail in Manti. On the 20th, Indians attacked Salina, on the 22nd Marysville, and on the 29th Fairview.

Settlements on the Sevier River south of Richfield were abandoned because of Indian trouble, and the people moved to larger towns. On June 10th, 300 horses were driven off in Round Valley and two men killed. General Daniel H. Wells and the state militia headed to Sanpete on the 11th. Indians raided Thistle killing one settler on the 24th. There was another raid on the 26th at Spanish Fork.

In July, scouts in the mountains east of Heber saw the tracks of a band of Utes and signs of a prized white mule that had been reported stolen from Henry Dinwoodey, the Salt Lake City furniture maker, and they warned the Heber militia. A party of four militia men on horseback equipped with the standard issue of a knife, rifle, and six-shooter rode up Lake Canyon east of Heber over the eastern ridge overlooking the Duchesne River in the Uintah Valley where they spotted the Indians in their camp where they had butchered a stolen

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New Orleans and ended up in Omaha having lost three boys under the age of three in transit. His father disappeared while the family was in Omaha and William took charge of his mother and two remaining siblings crossing to Utah in 1860. Bill subsequently made seven trips across the plains bringing immigrants and supplies to Utah. His mother married William Crouch and moved to Beaver.

[20] So named because that is where the Scandinavians had settled in 1863.

steer. After a firefight the mule and the rest of the cattle were retrieved, and the Utes were driven away.

In August, Brigham Young ordered that a new fort be built in Kamas, enabling the Kamas residents to return from Peoa to be closer to their farms. Cattle were kept in the southeast corner at night. The men farmed outside the walls during the day.

About that time, as Bill Gibson and John Lambert's oldest son Johnny were tracking a party of Indians who had driven off several head of horses, they captured a young Indian and took him to the fort. When his chains were removed the next morning, the brave ran out of the east gate up the bank of Beaver Creek, where he was shot through the hand. After several days, a large group of Indians returned to the fort and demanded food in payment for the injury. After receiving a beef and other supplies and feasting with the settlers, they returned to their tribe.

Twenty-nine year old cavalry Lieutenant Pardon Dodds,[21] who had been discharged from the army at the end of the Civil War, arrived in Salt Lake City on September 7,1866 as the new Federal Indian agent appointed by Andrew Johnson. He and an army comrade named Harwood Head had come west together to run a sawmill in Ruby Valley, Nevada.

Martha Adelaide, the oldest of the Lambert children, married William Riley Green on February 24, 1879.[22] She was 20 years old, and he was 30. Five years earlier, according to the 1860 census, Riley was in the penitentiary at Sugar House for grand larceny,[23] one of five white men and three Indians in confinement there. He had been delivered to the prison by Sheriff William Wall of Utah County, who at that time had a house in Provo but was living

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[21] Dodds was born in Erie, Pennsylvania, in 1827. He left home at the age of fifteen and went to Wisconsin, where he finished common school and had entered college when the Civil War broke out, which ended his schooling. He entered the Civil War and was appointed to the rank of Second Lieutenant. After his discharge from the army in 1865, he came to Salt Lake City, Utah, on Sept. 7, 1866.
https://genealogytrails.com/utah/uintah/history_ashley.html

[22] William Riley Green was born in New York in 1836, about the time that missionaries converted his parents. He was the oldest of 14 children. His parents headed to Nauvoo in 1839 to join the Mormons who had just arrived from being driven out of Missouri. They only got as far as Springfield, Illinois where his mother lost three infant boys in a row. They reached Nauvoo in 1842 where two more girls were born and died. They were among the group of poor Mormons who were driven forcibly from Nauvoo in late September 1846 and had five more children in Garden Grove of whom four more died before finally emigrating to Utah in 1852 with his surviving boys William, Ephraim, and Stanford. Three more boys were born in Utah, of whom only Benoni survived. His parents moved to Provo during The Move in 1857 where his mother died that year a week after giving birth to Asahel, her 13th child, who died at birth when Riley was 23 years old. Riley's father had moved without Riley to Bountiful by the time of the 1860 census in June with Riley's three young brothers, aged 4-9, evidently leaving Riley on his own in Provo. Needing a mother to help raise his young children, that December Job married Rebecca Woodall Finch, a woman nine years his senior, who had left her husband after their eight children had left the house.

[23] In those days to qualify for grand larceny a theft usually had to be above $20-50, most likely livestock or a firearm.

at his ranch at the top of Provo Canyon near Wallsburg, so Riley's larceny could have happened either in Utah County or Provo Valley (near Heber). Although his sentence was for two years at hard labor, he was released after a term of between nine and 20 months.[24] Riley and Martha Green would later be the second of John Lambert's offspring to settle in the Uintah Basin.

Bill Gibson wrote that in the summer of 1867,[25] he and Johnnie Lambert made a trip from Kamas to Salt Lake City to consult with the Indian agent Pardon Dodds regarding the recovery of horses stolen by the Indians. This was the beginning of a life-long association between Gibson and Dodds. Shortly thereafter, Dodds moved to the Uintah Basin, where U.S. soldiers constructed a log building to serve as the Indian agency at the head of Daniels Canyon. That location turned out to be a poor choice due to harsh weather, and he soon moved the agency to the upper Duchesne River near Hanna.

That summer Chief Tabby-To-Kwanah of the Uintah Ute tribe decided to meet with Mormon Church leaders in Heber to end the fighting. The chief and his retinue called at William Cummings' home in Heber and demanded to be taken to Bishop Murdock's house to make a treaty. Cummings, who had worked with the Utes as an interpreter, found the bishop plowing in his field. A treaty of friendship was made on August 20, 1867, which put a permanent end to the Walker War in Wasatch County.

But the war continued in Sanpete and Millard Counties for another year. People in Sanpete and Sevier had returned to their homes in the spring of 1868 with high hopes, but they were soon driven out again and had to wait another year.

On May 15, 1868, Brigham Young signed a contract to do the grading on 90 miles of the transcontinental railroad, which employed great numbers of men. The project was a huge economic boost for the Mormons, bringing employment and much-needed cash to the whole territory.

On August 19, 1868, Dobbs' superior officer, Col. F. H. Head, superintendent of Indian affairs, with the aid of the Mormon Church translator Dimick B. Huntington had a "big talk" with the Indians in Strawberry Valley, and a peace treaty was made that included the tribes who had raided in Sanpete and further south. This meeting was part of broader federal negotiations aimed at securing peace and addressing the concern of all the Ute tribes involved in the Black Hawk War. While details are not well documented, the meeting probably focused on federal policies for Ute lands and reservations, rather than the local

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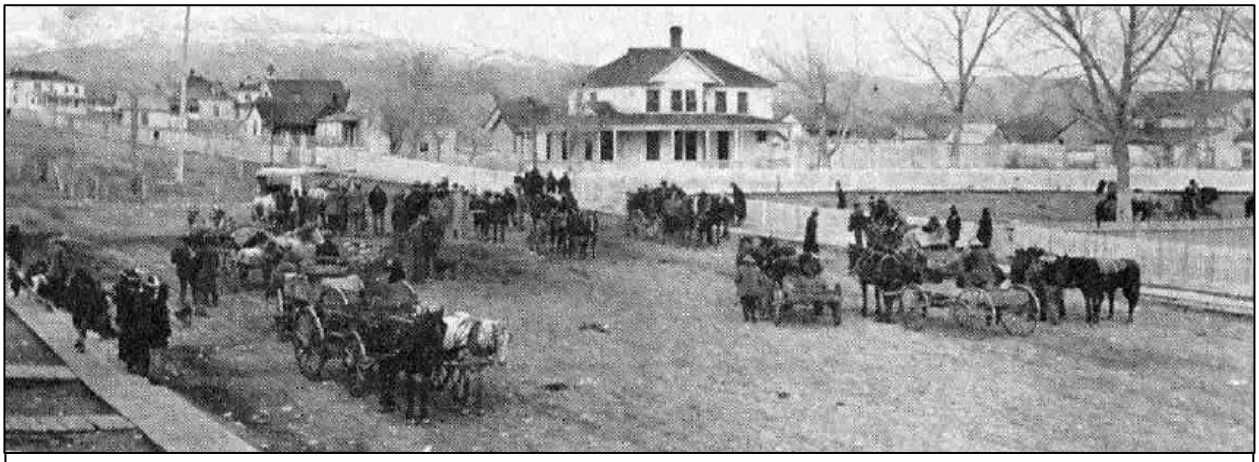
[24] He was imprisoned April 19, 1860, and was discharged sometime between January 22, 1861 and December 17, 1862 according to the *Deseret News* December 17, 1862.

[25] According to Dodds' diary, he took charge of the Agency in the Fall of 1867. (Dillman p.80)

peace efforts seen in Heber. However, not all the Ute tribes in Utah signed the treaty and hostilities continued intermittently for about four more years.[26]

Dodds moved the Uintah Indian agency again on Christmas Day 1868, this time to Whiterocks, which at the time was still a part of Wasatch County.



Whiterocks Agency in later years, Dillman, p. 77.

1869 was an important year for Rhoades Valley because of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in May and the discovery of silver at Park City, and the people in Rhoades Valley flourished by trading with the boomtown. Johnny Lambert went to work at the Cottonwood mines to help cook for the miners. The settlers erected a substantial bridge across the Weber River.

The explorer John Wesley Powell brought a party down the Green River into the Uintah Basin and on July 1, 1869, walked approximately 40 miles from where Ashley Creek enters the Green River to the Indian Agency at Whiterocks to re-supply and leave letters for mailing. There he met the agent Pardon Dodds, and the two men began a relationship which led to Dodds playing a key role in Powell's second exploration of the Colorado River two years later.

Bill Gibson, the captain in the Kamas militia, and his lieutenant, Johnny Lambert were assigned to track Indians who stole the community's horses. In his memoirs Gibson wrote, "Myself and John C. Lambert, my lieutenant of Kamas, went further than any white man during the war and we got the stolen horses every trip for three years." Bill Gibson eventually took four long trips after Indians who had stolen livestock in Kamas, stopping each time at the Uintah Agency. Their first trip was in August 1869. They were

[26] The grasshopper infestation of 1868 influenced the Pahvant Ute tribe in Kanosh to move to the reservation in the Uintah Basin, but many of them moved back, and they continue to occupy their farmland two miles northeast of Kanosh to this day.

accompanied by another militia member named James Woolstenhulme, and they recovered one horse. Gibson wrote that most of the Kamas trouble was not from the local chief Tabby, but from renegades who had left Blackhawk's band and also from the Colorado/New Mexico Utes. Two or three Indians would run off with 20-30 horses through the Uintah Mountains, across the Green and White Rivers into the Book Cliffs, and then on to Southern Colorado. Every trip took Gibson and Johnny Lambert into new country, just following the tracks of the horses. It was hard because not using pack animals, they were often short of food and supplies unless they could pass by the agency to get them.

Their second trip was in September 1869. Johnny Lambert was scanning the valley with his spy glass when he saw a band of the Indians gathering up the horses belonging to the settlers and trying to drive them off. The young militia men guarding the fort were hurriedly called together, and Johnny was sent in pursuit along with his future brother in law Gibson and a Clark boy. After two weeks they returned unhurt with the horses. They hadn't gone to the agency this time, but up the Weber River and down Henry's Fork across the Uintas between Brown's Park and Ashley Valley. They recovered the horses 15 miles from the summit of Little Brush Creek near the foot of Taylors Mountain about 12 miles north east of Ashley Valley. This was the first time that any of them had been there. Bill Gibson later wrote that it was then the he first saw the valley that he loved. From there, they could see the Green River where Jensen now is, but they mistakenly thought it was Brown's Park. On the ridge at the mouth of what came to be known as Steinaker Draw, he looked out over what later became his ranch. He saw fertile soil with sagebrush as high as a man's head and natural springs at the base of the ledge. He decided then and there that this was to be his homestead.[27] They were gone from home 27 days and brought home an Indian pony, but the Indians later returned to Kamas and stole it back.

Pardon Dodds moved the Indian agency to Rock Creek[28] north of present-day Starvation that summer, where he raised crops.

On September 20, Utes raided Fairview, stealing 18 horses, and they hit Kanarraville on the 31st. Black Hawk surrendered in Fillmore and died of tuberculosis on September 26, 1870. With the war finally over, the people in Rhodes Valley began to move out of the fort and onto the surveyed lots in the town, which soon was organized as Kamas. Most of the first homes were log cabins with roofs and floors of dirt equipped with homemade wooden furniture. By 1870 most members of the Tumpanuwac, Sanpitch, Pahvant, Sheberetch,

[27] *FamilySearch Memories*, Ruth Sowards, Memories of great grandfather William Gibson KWJ4-LNF.
[28] Rock Creek joins the Duchesne River about 12 miles southeast of Tabiona and six miles.

Cumumba, and Uinta-at bands of Utah Utes (collectively called the Uintah Band) had collected on the Uintah Reservation, led by Chief Tabby-to-Kwanah.[29]

Around that time, John Lambert Sr. made a claim on a 160 acre homestead that encompassed the southwest corner of the current town of Kamas.[30]

John Lambert

The U.S. census in Rhoades Valley on June 11, 1870[31] suggests that John Lambert's two families were living at that time in a single household outside the fort. John's first wife Adelia had nine living children ranging from four to 23, but his oldest child Martha Adelaide and her husband Riley Green were living nearby with their two young daughters and two of Riley's adult brothers, Ephraim and Samuel. The entire Green household including the brothers would be in Ashley Valley by the next census. Two of Adelia's nine children would eventually settle in Ashley Valley and another in Duchesne. John's younger wife Sena had six living children at the time, aged 22 months through 13 years, of whom five would later settle in the Ute reservation after it opened for settlement in 1905. As we will learn in chapter four, her three oldest boys—Joseph, Ephraim, and Dan—all moved to Roosevelt, and Elena and her husband went to Tabiona and Rebecca went with her husband Ephraim Marett to the Mill Ward in Ashley Valley in 1897 and then moved to Upalco near Roosevelt in 1907.

[29] https://www.uen.org/utah_history_encyclopedia/u/UINTAH-OURAY_INDIAN_RESERVATION.shtml

[30] It was proved up June 15, 1875.

[31] The entry for the Lambert family was so inaccurate as to be nearly unrecognizable, a situation that was true for some of the other families as well, probably due to the confusion during the mass movement of families from the fort to their town lots that month. The first names of 13 of the 17 people in the combined Lambert household were recorded incorrectly, although they all began with the correct letter. For example, John's name was given as Joseph Lambert, Adelia as Ann, and Sena (Eline) as Emily, but all their ages and places of birth were correct.

Bill Gibson

In August, horses were stolen again in Kamas. This time the thieves were renegades from the Colorado Ute tribe. Bill Gibson took Johnnie Lambert and Oscar Clark in pursuit. They followed tracks across the Provo River and down to the Duchesne, where they found one horse shot dead, a common practice for raiding Indians when stolen horses were difficult or balky. After stopping at the Dodds' Indian agency for supplies, they left Clark to cradle wheat for the agency in exchange for three Indian guides and followed the trail across the Green and White Rivers all the way to the Book Cliffs, from which they spied the Indians from a distance and determined there were too many of them to attack. Fortuitously, while the Indians were sheltering in their wickiups during a rainstorm, they retrieved their horses along with three extras. One of them had been stolen from Dodds, and two were Indian horses. Dodds paid them in cash for returning his horse. Bill Gibson and Johnnie Lambert were gone for 30 days and had traveled over 500 miles.

Gibson's fourth trip was to the Agency looking for the stolen horse of William Tanner of Wanship. They found it shot by the Indians. Bill Gibson later wrote, "Followed the Utes for part of three years on the trail" in his application for the Indian War Medal on February 5, 1906, which he received on September 8, 1909. He wrote further, "We were disbanded by the Governor, but we served our country just the same. Attested by John C. Lambert and Ward E. Pack of Kamas."

John J. Critchlow was named federal Indian agent in the Basin in February 1871 to replace Dodds. He served a term that lasted 12 years and achieved permanent results in combining the multiple Ute tribes on the reservation.[32] [33]

Although he was replaced, Dodds never left Utah and spent most of his remaining days in the Uintah Basin. While he was still at the agency in White Rocks, the explorer John Wesley Powell showed up around July 6, 1871, to re-supply his boats on his second trip down the

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[32] Short History p. 10.

[33] Critchlow probably arrived at the agency later that year, since Dodds met Powell at White Rocks in July. I wondered whether Dodds was fired or retired and couldn't decide it for sure. It is clear that Critchlow became critical of his predecessors in his first report. The Ute Indian agency was plagued with fraud, misappropriation of goods, mismanagement, and the lack of resources from the beginning. While specific instances of Dodds' culpability aren't detailed in these general descriptions, the consistent problems at the agency likely led to changes in leadership. We know, for example, that an earlier agent, L.B. Kenney, was fired for "gross neglect." This suggests a precedent for removing agents who were perceived as ineffective.

Green River, having already arranged for this with Dodds, who had the supplies ready to go. But he had bad news for Powell. Dodds had agreed to drive another freight wagon to the mouth of the Dirty Devil River to support the next leg of the expedition, but he informed the Major that he could not deliver the rations at Dirty Devil, having discovered that an overland route was impossible from the Uintah Basin. Powell had no recourse but to leave the expedition and arrange for the supplies himself.[34] He sent the boats down the river without him and hurried to Salt Lake City to buy them and then found a way to rendezvous with his companions at Desolation Canyon while Dodds headed south to Kanab to support the latter part of the exploration. Dodds met the party at the Crossing of the Fathers[35] with supplies and joined them, working as a guide.

Back in Kamas, Adelia's second daughter, Mary Adelia, married Bill Gibson, the militia buddy of her big brother Johnny, on May 6, 1872. Bill was ordained an elder on June 3rd.[36] Johnny never moved away from Kamas, but five years later his friend Bill and his sister Mary would be the first of the Lambert family to move to the Uintah Basin and the first Mormons to live at Old Ashley town.

Meanwhile, legal concerns among the Mormons about polygamy were increasing. Brigham Young was again arrested for "lascivious and unlawful cohabitation" by the U.S. marshal on October 2, 1871. In the next three days Daniel H. Wells, George Q. Cannon, and Henry W. Lawrence were also hauled in.

A new territorial governor[37] named George Lemuel Woods disbanded the Nauvoo Legion in 1871, and after that, it wasn't the Mormons, but federal troops who were in charge of keeping the peace with the Utes.

Without fear of attack, the Mormons promptly began filling the remaining valleys of Utah with settlements. But their move to the reservation was a disaster for the Utes, who suffered from intratribal rivalries and broken promises by the federal government.

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[34] Dellenbaugh, Frederick Samuel, A canyon voyage; the narrative of the second Powell expedition down the Green-Colorado river from Wyoming, and the explorations on land, in the years 1871 and 1872, New York, G.P. Putnam's sons, 1908.

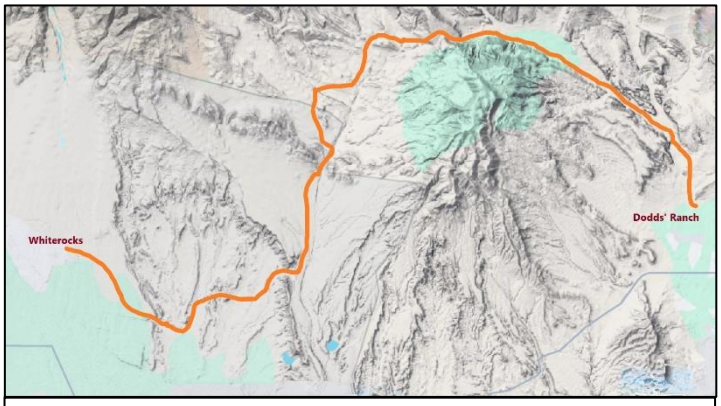
[35] Now Hite.

[36] This comes from the records of the Vernal Ward, but the ordination happened in Heber.

[37] After Brigham Young was replaced by Alfred Cumming at the arrival of Johnston's army, the state was governed by a series of 11 federal appointees. Woods served from 1871 through 1875.

Chapter Two – Ashley Valley

There were no white settlers in the Uintah Basin during Pardon Dodds' term as Indian Agent, only the staff living in the agency and a few cattle men from outside the Basin. After his return from the Green River Expedition, Dodds set out in the winter of 1873 with an associate named Morris Evans[38] to Ashley Creek near Dry Fork, where Dodds had been keeping his cattle. This was not actually in the Ute reservation, but only about 16 miles east of it as the crow flies. But getting to it in a loaded wagon was another matter. They were soon joined with another associate named John Blankenship[39] on the way, a man who according to his family had already dreamed of living in the Ashley Valley, and Dick Huffaker.[40] All these men were engaged in the horse and cattle business. After leaving Deep Creek,[41] they had trouble getting the wagons through and had to create a road in some places, doubling back on the hills, so Blankenship and Morris went ahead with the cattle, and Huffaker and Dodds came behind with the wagons.[42] Blankenship and Evans reached Dodds' cattle ranch on February 12th, and Dodds and Huffaker arrived two days later. Their zig zag course covered 31 miles. This route became known as the old Dodds Twist Road, over which most of the early settlers moved into the area until the road from the reservation to Price opened in 1888.



Dodds Twist Road

[38] Evans is probably M. R. Evans from New York in 1880 census, 34 years old living with two "servants, aged 21 and 24. Married, but no wife living with him.

[39] John Boner Blankenship was born in Indiana in 1834. He left home at the age of 16 and with neighbors came west, wintering at Des Moines, Iowa. He worked on the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad through Western Wyoming and then went to Oregon where he joined the Army to fight the Indians. In 1869 he came to Uintah Basin on a scouting expedition looking for cattle rustlers, coming as far as the White River. Later, he stopped at the Indian Agency at Whiterocks where he worked for the government. John Blankenship is known as the first white man to settle on Ashley Creek where he later worked as a cabinet maker, contractor and farmer. He also served as treasurer of the territory of Utah, County of Uintah, Vernal precinct from 1892 to 1896.

[40] Like Dodds, Payton "Dick" Huffaker had served in the cavalry during the Civil War. However, Dodds served in the Colorado Cavalry for the Union while Huffaker fought for the Confederacy alongside his brother Alexander at Vicksburg, where he was taken prisoner and later paroled. The Huffaker boys were born in Clay County, Missouri, sons of an immigrant farmer from Germany.

[41] Deep Creek is about 12 miles west of Whiterocks and five miles west of Dry Fork.

[42] Builders of Uintah, A Centennial History of Uintah County 1872-1947, DUP of Uintah County, Utah 1947.

At the ranch they built a cabin for cattle ranching that would also serve as a trading post. It was built of cottonwood logs cut down on the property and chinked with mud. The logs were notched to fit on the corners, and square wooden pegs replaced nails in other areas. It had a dirt roof and a whipsawed board floor. There were doors in three walls and a window on the front facing east, and another on the north. Windows were brought in from Salt Lake. Dodds lived in that cabin until 1897.

Pardon Dodds and his wife Minnie

They were soon followed by more cattle and horse ranchers, whose cabins clustered around Ashley Creek southeast of Dodds' ranch, forming what later became known as Old Ashley Town two or three miles northeast of the present town of Vernal.

Harvey Westover was one of the first cattle ranchers to join them.[43] He came to Ashley Valley with Jimmie Rineman from the train station in Green River, Wyoming, driving a herd of government cattle for the Indians in the Uintah Reservation. They drove them across the Green River at the old Escalante crossing and brought them up into Ashley Valley to graze, after which Westover went back for more cattle and returned on June 10,1874 to build a cabin on Ashley Creek.

Wilbur and Finley Britt were brothers who came to Utah from Black Hills, Dakota to look for gold near Carter Creek, Utah in May 1876. They prospected unsuccessfully until September and visited the Ashley Valley briefly before returning to Whiterocks for the winter. By the end of the year about a score of unmarried men had joined them in Ashley Valley, squatting on their claims because the government had not yet surveyed the area to allow them to file for homesteads. They were too spread out to regard the settlement as a town.

No Mormons settled in of Ashley Valley until late1876, although the area had been known to them since the Church's exploring party passed through and rejected it in September

[43] Alfred Harvey Westover was born in Vermont in 1851. After his mother died when he was five years old, he was raised by his grandparents until he was thirteen and then headed west after stopping briefly in New York City and Chicago.

1861. But Johnny Lambert and William Gibson had noticed its potential on their second trip to recover their stolen cattle in 1867, and others were now becoming aware of it.

At that time, all of the Uintah Basin including Ashley Valley was within the boundaries of Wasatch County, which reached clear to the border with Colorado. Abram Hatch, the Mormon Stake President in Heber, had jurisdiction over all of Wasatch County for the Church. He owned Hatch and Company, the general mercantile in Heber, and also the grist mill, the creamery, large herds of livestock, the bank, and various mining interests. Bishop Hatch's mercantile had supplied Dodd's trading post, which had a lot to do with the growing Mormon interest, and his son A.C. "Heat" Hatch managed cattle for him in the area. No doubt, President Hatch was aware of Dodds and his collection of gentile ranchers as well as the potential for Mormon settlement in Ashley Valley.

The first Mormons to settle in the general area were Robert Snyder[44] and his family, who arrived on September 16, 1876. They did not move into the ranchers' settlement but stopped about 15 miles southeast of Dodd's cabin where Ashley Creek joins the Green River. The site, which is now called Jensen, is a few miles downstream from the spot where exactly one century earlier, Father Escalante had crossed the Green River.[45] The Snyders are the first white people known to settle there, and Snyder's wife Mary, their one year old daughter Ida, and a teenage nursemaid named Clara Crouch[46] are the first white females ever to live in Ashley Valley. Robert Snyder had worked there a year or so earlier tending cattle and then returned to Salt Lake City. Major John Critchlow, the Indian agent who had replaced Pardon Dodds, brought his wife from Whiterocks to visit the Snyders that winter, a wagon trip of 50 miles.[47]

A non-Mormon named William Swinford Powell arrived soon after the Snyders.[48] Powell had moved to Kamas the early seventies with a contract to make railroad ties, and probably knew Bill Gibson and also Johnnie Lambert, who was involved in cutting and selling wood, and Powell may have learned of Ashley Valley through them. Twenty-seven years old and

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[44] Robert Snyder was born in 1853 in Cottonwood and married Mary Eliza Jacob in Salt Lake City on December 12, 1874, and they lived at Parley's Park.

[45] *FamilySearch* Memories, History of Jensen, K2YF-XWG

[46] Clara Crouch was born in England, arrived in1873 with her parents, and was 16 years old and single.

[47] Builders of Uintah: A Centennial History of Uintah County, 1872 to 1947, Art City Publishing Co., Springville, Utah; 1947.

[48] When William Powell came west from Missouri at the age of 16, he had been in his fourth term at an academy where his mother had sent him to become a Methodist minister. When he left early to seek his fortune, his parents did not know where he was. They advertised in the newspapers trying to find him but failed and thought he was killed in the Custer Massacre in 1876. His mother grieved about him until her death.

unmarried, Powell staked out a homestead on the east side of Ashley Creek among Dodds' cattle ranching friends.[49]

A Mormon named Peter Dillman[50] arrived a little after William Powell and settled at the mouth of Ashley Creek near the Snyders. He had come from Iowa with the Britt brothers two years earlier looking unsuccessfully for gold and settled temporarily in Evanston while working for a butcher. There he heard that Pardon Dodds was offering new settlers a cow to start a herd in Ashley Valley and decided to give it a try. He and a friend named Josh Bennett drove a wagon through Kamas and Heber, and then up Daniels Canyon, where they ran into Billy Gibson[51] driving his wagon back to Kamas, who had spent a month exploring the area for a place to settle. Possibly Gibson and Powell had gone to Ashley Valley together from Kamas. Now Bill had staked out a claim in and was returning to get his family.

Dillman and Bennett continued to the Indian Agency at Whiterocks and then followed Dodds Twist Road until it became impassable in the wagon, so they went the rest of the way to Ashley Valley on foot, arriving at Dodds' cabin/trading post the next morning. There were only about ten cattlemen living in the valley, all bachelors, and not a single woman except Clara Crouch. Dillman settled on Ashley Creek about a mile south of Bill Gibson's claim.[52]

Wilbur and Finley Britt returned in the spring 1877 to Ashley and described sage as tall as a man and grass up to an Indian horse's shoulder. Wilbur later built a store and post office which received weekly mail at 25 cents per letter from Green River, Wyoming and married Elizabeth Montgomery[53] of Heber around 1880.

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[49] William Powell later married Nellie Lucky in 1887 and Emma Remley in 1908 after divorcing Nellie. He was among the early pioneer school teachers in Ashley Valley and was also among the first to introduce honey bees. In 1902, he bought 200 acres of ranchland on the Green River below Jensen.

[50] Simon Peter Dillman was born in Indiana in 1854 and moved to Chariton, Iowa when he was two. He joined the Mormons and came west in 1875 when he was 21.

[51] All official records such as a census, passenger list, or passport give Gibson's name as William, Wm., or Willm. However, Dillman knew him intimately by the time he recalled that incident and is likely to have always addressed him as Billy. Also, William Gibson is consistently referred to as "Bill" or "Billy" in the writing of his granddaughter's biography of him, and in his long obituary he was referred to as "Uncle Billy." Therefore, I will use his nickname Bill in this story.

[52] Dillman's partner, Joshua James Bennett (*FamilySearch* KWNF-FXC), was a 33 year old man from South Cottonwood, an immigrant English Mormon convert, who arrived in 1863 and once served as a carriage driver for Brigham Young. He had recently quit his job at the smelter after becoming "leaded" and was evidently looking for a new place to live. Any interest in settling in Ashley Valley disappeared shortly after he returned to Cottonwood when he was called July 23, 1877, to help settle the new settlement of Deseret in Millard County.

[53] Elizabeth Montgomery became a sister-in-law to Mary Elizabeth Lambert in 1885 when Mary Elizabeth married Robert Montgomery.

A young unmarried man named John Hiatt[54] came through Ashley Valley on his way from Arizona to Huntsville, where he gave a glowing description of Ashley Valley. A member of the Huntsville bishopric named Thomas Bingham[55] was quite taken in by this description and soon started out in a wagon by way of Heber and Strawberry into Ashley Valley accompanied by three other men.[56] They picked a place they thought would be a good place to settle and returned after a couple of days via Browns Park across the northern Uintas to Huntsville and made a report of their findings to the Mormon Apostle John Taylor shortly after Brigham Young's death on August 29, 1877.[57] Taylor gave Bingham permission to organize a small company to aid in the settlement of Ashley Valley, and they spent the next five months preparing.

Clara Crouch, the only eligible female in the valley, met Harvey Westover in Old Ashley, and they were married September 1877 in Salt Lake City and returned to make their home.[58] Clara died the next year giving birth.[59] That month a non-Mormon named Lars Jensen settled near the Snyders on the Green River, where he later established a ferry and was awarded a homestead.[60] It is from him that the town of Jensen got its name.

John Fairchild[61] and his wife Catherine came from Ohio with several children directly to Ashley Valley in a pack train and settled on the east side of Ashley Creek on September 13, 1877.

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[54] John had come to Utah with his parents at the age of six and lived at Millcreek and later in Weber County and Brigham City. When he was 16, he and his family pioneered in Paris, Idaho, but by 1872 his family was back in Weber County. By then he was on his own as a 24 year old and moved to the Huntsville area. He worked at a sawmill in Eden in 1880. *FamilySearch* memories KW6Z-FYJ.

[55] Thomas Bingham was born in 1824 in New Hampshire. He was a member of the Mormon Battalion who joined the Vanguard Pioneer party in 1847 from Pueblo and ended up in San Bernardino until the call-back in 1856 and moved to Ogden.

[56] The three other men were Albion Beaty, Ludvik Felt, and Mark Hall. Albion moved to Ashley and died there in 1901. Felt did not move his family to Ashley but stayed in Huntsville. Mark Hall was 26 years old and worked for Bingham in his shingle mill in Huntsville. He had married Thomas Bingham's daughter Mary six months earlier.

[57] John Taylor was in Ogden at least twice in the fall of 1877, when Thomas Bingham would have had a chance to speak with him. John Taylor was officially sustained by the quorum of the Twelve to replace Brigham Young on September 4th after which he traveled to Logan to preside over the laying of the cornerstone of the temple. On October 21st, Taylor was in Ogden where he delivered a discourse. He traveled to Ogden again in December, where he experienced a significant spiritual manifestation referred to as his vision of the last days.

[58] Temple records show that she had received her endowment in the Endowment House July 26, 1875, at the age of 16.

[59] Her orphaned child was living with her family in Salt Lake City in 1889.

[60] Andrew Jenson, Encyclopedic History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. p. 375.

[61] John Fairchild was a farmer born in New York in 1828 and married in Huron, Ohio in 1848.

Three days later, Teancum Taylor[62] and his two wives, Mary Jane Hiatt[63] and Clarissa Jane Taylor arrived from Lewiston, Idaho with their seven children, 150 head of cattle, and as many horses. They were the fourth white family to settle in Ashley Valley and the first in Dry Fork.[64]

Charles Bentley[65] wrote that he had come with Dillman, although perhaps not on Dillman's first trip. He wrote:

> When I in company with S. P. Dillman and my brother first saw (the valley), I thought it the most desolate, God forsaken desert land that the eye of mortal man ever saw…in September 1877. We proceeded across what was then a desert of sage brush, greasewood, and shadscale to the stream called Ashley, where we encamped for the night. The next morning, we proceeded to explore the valley. The first place we visited was the ranch of Pardon Dodds, the first actual settler in the valley…who gave us some information… We had no intercourse with the outside world, no mail service.

The growing community at Ashley Fork[66] on the Green River was visited in the fall of 1877 by A.C. "Heat" Hatch, the Wasatch Stake president's 22 year old son, with his hired man and nine other people. Heat was not there to settle but was in charge of his father's Blue Mountain Cattle Ranch on the Green River, camping while he was in the area in a primitive herding cabin. Like most of the important merchants in Utah Territory, President Hatch had accumulated a large herd of cattle as payment for food and other supplies, as money was hard to find.

Bill Gibson returned from Kamas to Ashley Valley with his wife Mary Adelia Lambert and two children on the first day of November 1877. They didn't come via Daniels Canyon, but right over the Uintah mountains, possibly following the route that he and Johnny Lambert

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[62] Teancum Taylor was a deputy sheriff and noted Indian fighter from Eden in the Ogden Valley, who understandably went by the nickname "T." He had freighted into Helena, Montana, and had been called to settle in Lewiston, Idaho the year before he sold out and headed to Ashley Valley.

[63] Mary was the sister of John Hiatt who had first interested the Bingham party in coming to Ashley Valley. They came independently from the Binghams and by a different route since he was coming from Lewiston, Idaho and arrived earlier and set up his family at Dry Creek.

[64] They later proved up homesteads 2-3 miles west of Dry Fork.

[65] Bentley was a blacksmith from Ohio. He came west with his older brother William, and then returned to Missouri where he married and divorced before 1870. He settled in Ashley Valley in 1877, one of a group of bachelors who were prospecting and trapping. He took up a large land claim and set up a blacksmith shop and the Bentley saloon. He married Emily Carroll, a girl who had come to Ashley with her family from Heber City in 1879, and by 1882 they had moved back to Heber.

[66] Ashley Fork was the early name of the community at the junction of Ashley Creek with the Green River, but it can also refer to Ashley Creek itself. The community was also known as Incline, Green River Branch (of the LDS church), and later Jensen when it obtained a post office.

had followed through the mountains eight years earlier.[67] Their son James was four and Mary Eliza was two. According to his obituary, "because Kamas was too cold, they decided to go to Ashley Valley," but his biography claimed that he had his eye on the place since his Indian chasing days. They were the fifth white family to settle there, the first Mormons in Old Ashley, and probably the third Mormon family anywhere in the valley, preceding the Bingham and the Burton companies by a little over a month. Bill's 28-year-old bachelor brother James[68] was also with them, one of approximately 16 Mormon families who arrived at Ashley Valley in the last two months of that year. The Gibsons settled on a quarter section of land north of Ashley Creek near Dodds and the cattle ranchers.[69] They had driven 35 head of cattle and brought enough provisions for a year or more. James Gibson built a cabin on Bill's property and ran a little store out of his cellar, which later became a significant business.

Like the Binghams, the Isaac Burton family altered plans and came to Ashley Valley after hearing glowing reports. Having left their home in Coalville on their way to Arizona, the Burtons were passing through Heber City when they met 27 year old Joseph Campbell,[70] who was just returning with several men from an exploration of Ashley Valley. Impressed by Campbell's enthusiasm, the Burtons with their 12 children and traveling companions changed course and headed up Daniels Canyon. The way was difficult, requiring them to cross the creek many times with their six wagons and 60 cattle. They reached Ashley Fork near the Snyders on November 17, 1877, having taken a month to get there with no roads to follow and settled there, instantly making it the largest settlement in the valley. Old Ashley Town did not really exist yet; it was just farms scattered along Ashley Creek. The Burtons and their companions moved a bit down the Green River from the Snyders to what they called the Lake Bottoms. Three weeks later the Thomas Bingham party arrived from Huntsville and joined the growing community at the lower end of Ashley Creek in 11 wagons.[71]

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[67] Builders of Uintah, p. 264-5.

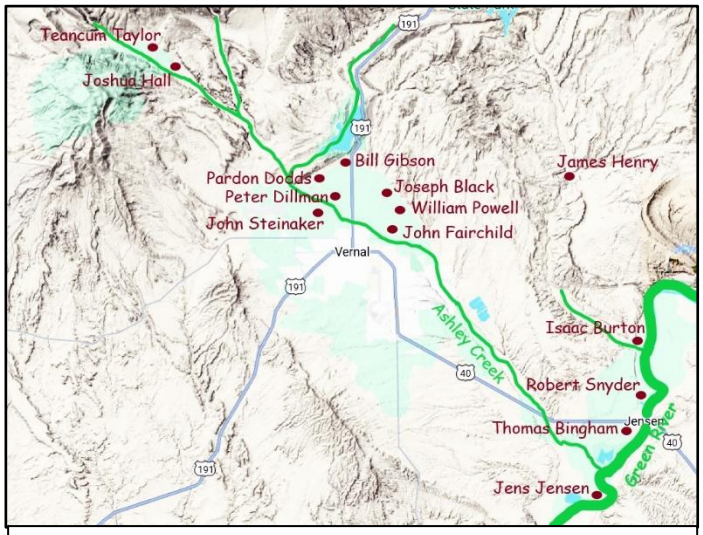
[68] In 1870 James was living with their mother and stepfather, George Crouch (not related to Clara's family) in Beaver, working as a harness maker. In the census he is mistakenly said to have been born in the Cherokee nation—that would be Nancy Crouch.

[69] The homesteads that Bill and Mary were awarded in 1888 and 1892 were about two miles north of Vernal.

[70] He was the oldest son of Samuel Joseph Campbell, a former member of the Mormon Battalion. He lived in Millville in Cache County with his wife Diana, three young children, and his father's family.

[71] It consisted of Thomas Bingham Sr. and wife Caron, 20 year old David H. Bingham, Thomas' 14 year old daughter Phoebe, Enoch Burns (Burns was born in 1807 and was called from Nauvoo as a missionary promoting Joseph Smith's presidential campaign. He was a chair maker by trade.), his wife Elizabeth and 14 year old son Jacob, Frederick G. Williams (Frederick Granger Williams had married Amanda Burns in 1876. Their first child was born in Eden, and their second on January 11, 1879 at Ashley's Fork, who died in Eden November 11, 1879 on a trip back for supplies. The returned spring of 1880 but moved to Mexico in 1886 after marrying two more wives.) and his wife Amanda Burns with their infant daughter (they returned for good to

At a meeting held at his cabin on January 6, 1878, Thomas Bingham was chosen by those present to preside over them, becoming the first presiding elder in Uintah Basin. He chose Fred J. Williams[72] as clerk of the branch and counselor. Bingham took a census of the growing community[73] to send to President John Taylor in Salt Lake City, and they spent the winter there.



Approximate locations of settlers in 1878
(Jensen came later, Bingham moved to Dry Gulch that year)

The first winter in Ashley Valley was very mild, which was fortunate since some families, including the Gibsons, lived in a house without doors or windows. Once a week, carriers on horseback or wearing snowshoes brought the mail from Green River, Wyoming. There were two or three stores on the ranches including James Gibson's, and church was held in the homes of the people. Since the Fairchilds arrived in the summer too late to plant, they and a few others ran low on supplies in the winter, so a group of them went to Rock Springs, Wyoming to buy supplies. Even though that winter was mild, there was not enough forage, so they had to pack feed for their horses, and at one point they ran into deep snow. Although the trip took triple the time they expected and one man died, they returned with enough food to get their families through the winter.

Joshua Chell Hall and Lola moved with their small daughter Sally to Dry Fork, the first to join Teancum Taylor.

Pleasant View in 1879), and Alma Taylor (b. 1834 in Clay County, Missouri, came to Utah 1854 at age 20. Mission to Ft. Supply out of Ft. Bridger in Dec 1856.) a polygamist from Eden, Weber County. It appears that he brought only his first wife and her two children. (Beginning in the early 1880's when cohabitation became illegal, Alma Taylor lived solely with his first wife, Celia in Ashley. In the 1890's he built a large brick home in Ashley, where they lived until his death August 10, 1910. For many years he farmed and raised livestock.) Also with the Bingham party were Joshua Chellus Hall and Orson Hall, brothers of Mark Moroni Hall with their wives and young children, Charles Allan, Charles A. Nye (married to Lucinda Bingham), Ben Lofgren, his half-brother Neils Lofgren, both Swedish immigrants, Charles Jensen and John Nelson and family.

[72] Alva Hatch claimed that in the spring of 1878 Fred Williams was the first presiding Elder. He was actually the second. He took charge after the Binghams pulled out.

[73] The community near the mouth of Ashley Creek was sometimes referred to as Incline and later became the Jensen Ward.

On March 20, 1878, Thomas Bingham sent a letter to Apostle Franklin D. Richards describing their arrival at Ashley Valley on the Green River the previous December noting his appointment to act as presiding elder over the branch. He estimated that there were about the same number of Gentiles as Mormons there.

> I think this is as good a country as any I know of in Utah that is not settled, where (there) is a chance for poor men to make comfortable homes... We anticipate a large emigration to this part in the coming season; we hope that they will be Latter-day Saints... We have located a townsite about one mile from Green River of 160 acres containing 60 lots and one public square.

After hearing from these successful settlers, Mormon leaders ignored the Basin's wasteland reputation and began to call Saints to load up and head east. At General Conference in April, several families were sent to Ashley Valley including Alma Johnston, James Henry, Joseph H. Black, Calvin Henry, and David Johnstone.

Most of the Bingham party moved from the Green River settlement to Mt. Dell (later called Dry Fork) in the spring of 1878. Dry Fork is about eight miles northeast of Dodds' cabin and 27 miles from the settlement on the Green River. Only a single family was living at Dry Fork when they arrived—Bingham's relative Teancum Taylor. Taylor was a polygamist, and I think he brought both wives and had six living children at the time. None of the Binghams were polygamists, nor were the three Hall brothers. The only polygamist in the Bingham group was Teancum's older brother Alma Taylor, who only brought one of his wives. Alma did not settle in Dry Fork but settled between Gibsons and Ashley Creek.

Early that spring, Heat Hatch returned from Heber to look after his father's cattle that had wintered on the Green River, and he brought along his cousin Alva Alexander Hatch to inspect the country. Alva had grown up in Manti, where his father Jeremiah Hatch[74] was the Indian Agent. More recently, Jeremiah was on a mission with three of his sons in the Mexican colonies, but they were released in 1877 and moved to Heber where his brother Abram lived.

When Heat and Alva Hatch rode through the Strawberry Valley, the winter was just breaking up, and they had to swim their horses across the draw. Consequently, by the time they reached Heat's cattle camp cabin at the mouth of Ashley Creek two days later, young Alva had developed a bad cold. After managing to help round up the cattle, Alva became too

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[74] Jeremiah Hatch was seven years older than his brother Abram, the oldest son in their family. He was a polygamist with three wives. He married Louisa Alexander in Nauvoo in 1842 and who bore 13 children, of whom five were living in Heber. He married Aurilla Hadlock in Salt Lake City in 1870. She bore nine children of whom three were living in Heber, aged 2-6 years. He married his third wife, Henrieta Clark in 1877. She was now just 16 years old and had none of her eventual 10 children, who were all born in Ashley Valley.

sick to leave the cabin, so Heat left him in order to move the cattle to the ranch. Isaac Burton found Alva sick in the cabin and had Enoch Burns haul him to his place in a wagon, where Burns' daughter Amanda and her husband Fred Williams, whose father was a doctor in Ogden, gave Alva some pills and sagebrush baths. When Heat came back and learned where Alva was, he borrowed a spring wagon and hauled his cousin 13 miles up Ashley Creek to Pardon Dodds' cabin to recover. Three days later, their fathers, President Abram Hatch and his older brother Jeremiah, caught up with them at Dodds' place. President Hatch was there on business—he was there to re-stock Dodd's trading post with wheat and other goods from Heber. Jeremiah Hatch, enticed by his son's positive report on the location, decided that they should move their families there.

Thanks to Jeremiah's experience in Manti during the Blackhawk War, he already knew many of the Utes in the reservation. He spoke Indian dialects and called the Utes his brothers, and they called him Uncle Jerry. The fact that Jeremiah was a polygamist with many children may have been an added incentive for him to move to Ashley and avoid the marshals. Jeremiah went back to Heber with his brother Abram but soon returned in May to help Alva build two houses on what later became George Freestone's[75] farm on high ground west of Ashley Creek known as the bench. One could see miles across it. According to the first settlers, there was not a tree, shrub, or green twig of any kind on the bench.

Mary Eliza Snyder's second child, Robert Ashley Snyder, was born May 11, 1878, in Ashley Fork. He is said to have been the first white child born in Uintah County.[76]

A letter from Thomas Bingham was published in the *Deseret News* on May 25, 1878.

> There are about 100 inhabitants in this precinct... The roads that lead to this place, whether by Fort Bridger or Heber, are very rough, and twenty hundred is a heavy load for four animals... There are as yet no mills in the country... We have applied for a post office and mail route to this place and expect it will be established this summer.

Contrary to some histories and to their early start, the Hatch family were not the first to actually settle on the bench. Before the Hatches could move into their cabins, David Johnstone[77] arrived on June 4,1878 with his family. First they stayed a few days in Ashley

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[75] George Freestone was born in Canada in 1838, joined the Mormon Church at the age of 13, immigrated in 1853 and settled in Alpine. His wife Alise died there leaving him with four children. He married Swedish Jenny Lind in 1872 and moved to Franklin, Idaho in Alpine in 1861. He moved to Ashley in 1879 with a two year old from his first marriage, his second wife Jenny, and her two children. He later served as bishop of Vernal.
[76] *FamilySearch* memories, History of Thomas William Preece KWNL-Q73.
[77] David was born and married in Scotland and came to America in 1872 with five children. They stayed in Boston for a year where David took a second wife. They arrived in Ogden by train around 1874 and settled in Salt Lake City where David worked at a sawmill a Parley's Park and knew Robert Snyder's brother Ephraim.

Fork at the home of Robert Snyder and his newborn son, whose family they knew in Salt Lake City, and then they moved to the bench. Johnstone wrote,

> We lived in a shed of brush with the covered wagon box for a bedroom until we could go to the mountain and get logs to build a small cabin. It had two holes for windows that a small flour sack would cover nicely, and a quilt did for a door in time of need, such as when the Indians were going out on the Blue Mountains hunting and passed close by our cabin.[78]

When they stopped their wagon, David took his shovel and cleared off the cactus so the children could stand without getting cactus needles in their feet. He put the wagon on logs to keep it off the ground, as there were many lizards, horned toads, scorpions, mice, and snakes in the area.[79]

A few days later, Robert Snyder was killed by lightning while standing in his doorway.[80]

People got together from the three settlements for the first July 4th celebration in Ashley Valley, which must have been held on the bench, which was still pretty barren. No well had been dug there, so water had to be brought up from the creek.

Four other women known to be present for the celebration were Mary Lambert Gibson, Robert Snyder's still-grieving widow Mary Eliza,[81] Chell Hall's wife Lola Ann, and 15 year old Phoebe Bingham.[82] That only five women were mentioned suggests that some of the families did not take part.[83] Lacking cannons, some of the men probably fired off their rifles at dawn as a declaration of the day. Typically, a flag raising would follow, possibly with an improvised flag, perhaps one brought for the occasion by Abram Hatch in his load of

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[78] *FamilySearch* memories L4NF-RH3.

[79] https://historytogo.utah.gov/vernal/

[80] His wife Mary married Billy Preece a year later. Preece was born in Salt Lake City in 1856 but as a young man he moved to the Reservation on the Duchesne River where he herded cattle.

[81] Mary Eliza went back to Salt Lake that fall and stayed for a year. She married William Preece in 1880. (Builders of Utah p. 48.)

[82] Phoebe came as a single girl with her parents in November 1877. She later returned to Huntsville and married George Hislop (George Watt Hislop was born in England in 1858 and immigrated as a ten year old. George and Phoebe had a child in Huntsville 21 August 1879, but were in Dry Fork for David's birth September 3, 1882, and were in what is now called Vernal for their third child October 28, 1885, and the rest of their children.) on October 11, 1878, and they did not move to Ashley until their first child George was two years old. (Builders of Utah p. 12.)

[83] At least fourteen other women were living in Ashley Valley at the time, some of whom may also have been present for the celebration. In Old Ashley Town along the creek were Clara Crouch Westover, Catherine Fairchild, Alma Taylor's wife Celia, and David Johnstone's wives Margaret and Maggie. At Ashley Fork were Enoch Burns' wife Elizabeth and his daughter Amanda Williams, Rachel Rees, and her sister Annie Frisby. In Dry Creek were Teancum Taylor's two wives Mary Jane and Clarissa, and among the Bingham group who had recently moved from Ashley Fork to Dry Creek were Eliza and Lola Hall, Caron Bingham, and her daughter Phoebe.

supplies. Families from all three settlements were there including children, having gathered by wagon or horseback, which would have taken an hour or two of travel. The centerpiece of the celebration would have been a communal meal featuring early summer vegetables such as peas. There would have been a program featuring the singing of songs like Yankee Doodle and the Star Spangled banner accompanied by a fiddle or harmonica followed by games and target shooting.

That night a dance was held at the home of the Gibsons on Ashley Creek. The women known to have attended the dance were Mary Gibson, Lola Hall, Teancum's daughter Levina Taylor, Phoebe Bingham, and Sarah Snyder.[84]

The Hatches didn't put in crops that year because it took them three trips to bring all their belongings and family members, but they were finally all together by November 17th.

Teancum Taylor and his neighbors built the first school in Ashley Valley. Lumber for the schoolhouse was sawed out with a whipsaw by Peter Dillman and John Steinaker. Steinaker's homestead was south of Ashley Creek just north of present-day Vernal.

Thomas Bingham Jr. arrived at Dry Fork from Huntsville and built a home with the help of others about a half mile northwest of the main road to Dry Fork. His sister Mary with her husband Mark Moroni Hall arrived at the same time. Thomas Bingham Sr. returned to Huntsville in October on business and returned with his son Mark with his wife and three month old daughter and Charles A. Nye with wife and child.[85]

Ira Burton wrote that he worked for the U.S. surveyors sectionizing the Uintah Basin the fall of 1878 and 1879 in preparation for homesteading under the 1862 Homestead Act, the earliest that people could have begun to do so.[86]

More Mormon families were called in the fall to settle in Ashley Valley, totaling at least nine families that year, who mostly settled near other Mormon families in Dry Fork Canyon and near the Green River. The settlement on the bench became known as Ashley Center, and Jeremiah Hatch was appointed branch president over both Ashley Center and the few Mormons in Old Ashley including the Gibsons. There were also Mormon branches in Mountain Dell on Dry Creek and Ashley Fork on the Green River. Thomas Bingham, Sr. presided over the whole valley under the direction of Wasatch Stake.

Joseph Hardy and his family arrived in Ashley Valley on November 3, 1878. His daughter Deborah Johnson, who was at that time 36 years old, later described the scene:

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[84] Builders of Utah p. 406.
[85] *FamilySearch* memories, Life Story of Mark M. Hall by Maysie Hall Sinfield KWNK-H1X.
[86] Between 1881 and 1890 there were about 80 patents issued in Uintah County.

> There was not a tree in sight where Vernal City now stands. The whole valley was nothing but sagebrush, except that Ashley Creek showed itself flanked on each side by green cottonwoods. I took one look at my surroundings and then cried. I thought that I had come to a dropping off place on the earth's side. But I have lived here for a long time. I don't know any other place and have gotten to like this place better than any other.[87]

The Hardys were able to complete their houses before the fall of 1879, which proved to be the hard winter.[88]

In Mill Ward (now Maeser), Patrick Carroll[89] and Jeremiah Hatch erected a sawmill. Mark M. Hall[90] was a school teacher, stockman and farmer. He filed on four 40-acre sections of land that ran south of the cemetery to the road along the south of Dry Fork.

Thomas Bingham Jr. wrote:

> All the men living in Dry Fork came together and helped Mark M. Hall split poles and hew them down for "the hunching floor"[91] and afterwards had a dance there.

This was the first house in Dry Fork with a wooden floor.[92] Harvey Meeks came and played for them.

That winter was a very mild one with little snow, and the cattle were able to find plenty of dried grass to eat and were in good condition when spring came. William Britt taught the first school during the winter of 1878-1879 on Gibson's farm.

The first post office was established in the center of Old Ashley on December 27,1878. Wilbur and Finley Britt used logs from nearby mountains, wooden pegs, and square nails to construct it. It had a dirt roof and wide board floors. The cracks between the logs were

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[87] *FamilySearch* memories, KWJZ-1WP.
[88] Joseph Hardy was born at Council Bluffs in 1848 and married in 1868 in Salt Lake City. After spending about nine years in the Bear Lake Valley he had set out with his wife and four children and three of four other families for Ashley Valley in November 1877, but the company found it hard to cross the mountains because of snow so they made camp on top of Taylor Mountain.
[89] Patrick Carroll was born in Canada and baptized in 1857 and was one of the early settlers of Heber. He went to Ashley with his sons in September 1877, having joined the Hatch Party and coming over Dodd's Twist road. The first sight he reported in Ashley Valley was Bill Gibson's cattle herd. He and his sons claimed homesteads and returned to bring their families the following year, settling on Ashley creek south of Rock Point, where they erected a sawmill.
[90] *FamilySearch* memories, Mark Hall KWCD-CNS.
[91] Puncheon floors were used then there was no mill to make planks. Split logs would be smoothed on the cut side to make a walking surface and laid side by side with the round side on the ground to make a flat walking surface.
[92] However, Dodd's had a wooden floor in his trading post in Old Ashley.

filled with mud. A log partition separated the post office from a grocery store. Wilbur was appointed first postmaster.[93]

By then there were about 300 settlers in Ashley Valley. Some of those who had just moved in were poor and hadn't brought enough provisions to last them until spring. A little wheat had been raised but there was no grist mill so they couldn't get their wheat ground into flour.[94]

The business places in 1879 were the Britt store and post office with an upper room for boarders, James Gibson's store, and Charles Bentley's saloon. Huffakers also had attic rooms for visiting cattlemen.

Thomas Bingham wrote:

> In the spring of '79 we put in some wheat west of Dry Fork and made a water ditch. The water came down for one week and then dried up. We had no more water all summer and very little rain. The wheat lay in the ground all summer and came up early next spring, that is, about 1/3 of a crop came up.

This turned out to be even more serious than people thought at the time, since the next winter turned out to be severe.

On June 1, 1879, a special conference was held in which the Saints in Ashley Valley were organized into three districts: Ashley Fork (now Jensen), Ashley Center (now Vernal) and Mountain Dell (on Dry Creek). A president was appointed over each district. Fred G. Williams was president over Ashley Fork, Jeremiah Hatch was president over Ashley Center, and Thomas Bingham was president over Mountain Dell.

Meanwhile in Kamas, Mary Lambert Gibson's sister Martha Green and her husband Riley were planning their own family's move with their eight children to Ashley Valley. This was chronicled in the biography of their 10 year old daughter Sarah Adelaide.[95]

> The summer Sarah was 10 they decided to go to Ashley Valley. Her father had two brothers there[96] and William Gibson, a brother-in-law. As good reports came to them, Riley gathered up one thousand pounds of wheat and one thousand pounds of flour and sent them out to Ashley by a young man so they would have plenty of

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[93] https://jacobbarlow.com/2022/09/14/old-ashley-postoffice/

[94] *FamilySearch* memories, Mary Ann Hiatt Taylor LKVY-RCQ

[95] *FamilySearch* memories, Sarah Adelaide Green Evans KWZ1-VNN.

[96] Two of Riley Green's brothers may indeed have been living in Old Ashley, since they appeared near Pardon Dodds a year later in the 1880 census, Ephraim with his wife Sarah and a two year daughter and 25 year old Benoni.

> food for a year. Well, this was the year of a terrible drought... Sickness delayed their moving early...so they wintered again at Woodland.

It was a fortuitous decision for them to wait a year, as we shall see, and the food they sent that year must have come in handy for others.

That fall, while Bill Gibson was away getting supplies, Indian troubles began over the state line in Colorado. On September 29, 1879, a band of White River Utes killed the Indian agent Nathan Meeker and his 10 male employees and took five women and children as hostages. When the cavalry came the rescue, the Utes ambushed and killed major Thomas T. Thornburgh and 13 federal troops. Forty-four soldiers were wounded, and the Utes lost between 19 and 37 warriors (accounts varied.) Chief Ouray of the neighboring Uncompahgre Utes in Colorado, who had not been part of the uprising, negotiated the release of the captives.

Understandably, there was a lot of concern in Ashley Valley when people heard of the uprising.[97] Arapeen and Tabby, two chiefs of the Uintah Utes, who were friendly with Jeremiah Hatch and Israel J. Clark, rode over in the night and warned them that the settlers must gather together. Otherwise, the friendly chiefs might be unable to control their young men, who were returning from Colorado after supporting the White River tribe. Their advice was acted upon by the settlers without delay.

Mary Gibson, being alone and afraid without Bill, took her children to where the ranchers along Ashley Creek had gathered in Old Ashley town. When Bill returned from his supply trip he found a war party of young Uintah Utes camped on his ranch on their return trip from the Meeker Massacre in Colorado. Observing that Bill's clothing was worn and ragged from his trip, the Indians offered a slightly blood-stained soldier's uniform they had commandeered, which Bill declined.[98] When they left, he dragged the whip-sawed log ranch house he had built that summer to Old Ashley town, joining Mary and several families from Dry Fork, who had come down the creek for safety.

Clara Burton's experience was similar to Mary Gibson's. Her older boys and Isaac were in Heber for winter supplies, having left her with the younger children including a one-year-old. The Indians came to their ranch and threatened to kill them all if they didn't move away. They had no means to go, so they gave the Indians food to eat and told them they would move as soon as the men returned. Clara's husband Isaac was in the vicinity of the present town of Duchesne when he heard of the massacre. He rode a horse bare-back from there to the ranch at Green River in a day and a half.

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[97] *FamilySearch* memories, Louis Kabell KFGS-11J.
[98] *FamilySearch* memories, They're forcing bill to Leave the Hill, KWJ4-LNF.

The Indians caused plenty of worry and extra work, but none of the settlers were killed. Thirty-five stockmen and cow punchers from Blue Mountain gathered at the Burton Ranch and built a stockade fort around it with a well in the center.[99]

The third gathering of settlers was on the Bench. Louis Kabell and several other ranchers in Old Ashley dismantled their cabins and moved them to safety among the 20 families who gathered in "Fort Jericho", on the bench, which later evolved into the main settlement in Ashley Valley, and eventually the town of Vernal. The cabins formed the wall of the fort with cedar post buttresses between them. Water was hauled from Ashley Creek for about a mile because the well they dug hit slate and didn't reach water at 60 feet. It was never finished, so it formed a U. Five families living on the bench and most of the families in Old Ashley Town and Dry Fork remained outside the forts.

As the Indian uprising subsided in late December, a significant number of late arriving families from Paradise in Cache County settled about 30 miles south of Ashley Fork (as the crow flies—it would be over twice that distance in water miles) in the Ouray Valley where the White River in Colorado intersects the Green River near the former site of the trappers Robidoux and later Kit Carson.

One of them was Joseph Campbell, who had influenced the Binghams to come two years earlier. He came from Cache County with his parents, his two wives who were sisters, and five children plus a small colony of settlers. That June while Campbell was away on a freighting trip to Heber, his two wives and his 15 year old sister Harriet tried to cross the White River in a rowboat piloted by a neighbor boy. The boat capsized and all three women drowned while Campbell's parents watched helplessly. The entire White River community would soon be displaced when the Colorado Utes were moved to Utah.

Minnesota (Minnie) Hatch, the Stake President's daughter, married Pardon Dodds in Salt Lake City on December 17th. She was 21 and he was 42.

People were still worried about the Meeker Indian incident, and the fort on the bench was still under construction, when an exceptionally brutal winter arrived. Seventy-nine families are known to have been in Ashley Valley that winter not including the late-arriving settlers on the White River. Dry Fork had nine families. Old Ashley, counting Bill Gibson's family and his brother James together, had 26 households, many of them single ranchers. Ashley Center had 33. Brush Creek had five and White River six.

The hardship of winter was especially acute because of grasshopper damage to their crops the prior summer. People were hungry and lived on daily rations without vegetables or fruit.

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[99] It is now known as the William Oakley farm. http://www.ourfamiliesroots.org/other/2527.htm

The deer were so poor that not a globule of grease would rise in the pot in which their meat was cooked. Snow was deep, and it was cold. There was no hay to feed the cattle, and there were no trees or windbreaks on the bench. The cattle huddled under ledges, and many died. Milk was a rare luxury.

Fearing the worst, a group of men[100] undertook a trip via Brown's Park to Green River, Wyoming, for flour and provisions. They got together the best horses available under the circumstances and started over the rim of the northern mountains. No one had been over the road during the winter except Pete Dillman[101] and Dan Beard, who had carried mail from Ashley Valley over the mountain to Browns Park on skis or snow shoes once a month.

Despite the famine and the Indian scare, church and social activities continued. A Sunday School was organized on Washington's birthday that winter with Joseph H. Black as superintendent and held in the Hacking cabin. Mary Lambert Gibson was a Sunday school teacher and Alfred Johnson was superintendent.[102] Alva Hatch had a puncheon floor in his cabin, and the people danced on it a few times during the winter.

Diphtheria[103] came that winter and took out a lot of the young people, several families losing multiple members. The Anderson family lost seven children.[104] There was no doctor except Will Britt, who had had one year of medical school, so he served as the town doctor, dentist, and druggist. He was also justice of the peace, postmaster, and the first school teacher.

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[100] *FamilySearch* memories, The Hard Winter 1879-80 KWJZ-YQW. The article lists the men who went the Green River route: Jim Henry, Pete Peterson, Chell and Lee Hall and Dave Woodruff.

[101] Dillman was employed by the government at the Indian Agency for a short time and went to secure the release of the white women being held hostage by the Utes following the Meeker Massacre in Colorado. He was one of two teachers who conducted the first school in the valley and was a pioneer in fruit culture in that area. He served as a game warden for many years as well as being the first forest ranger in the Uinta Basin. He also started the first drug store in the area. He married Julia Ellen Davis, whose father was in the bishopric of the Green River Ward, and they had four children.

[102] Builders of Uintah, p. 19.

[103] Diphtheria is the "D" in the DPT vaccinations we all received as children, which stands for corynebacterium diphtheriae. As recently as the 1920s it was killing tens of thousands of people each year in America, although the Nobel prize had been given in 1901 for a long-awaited cure. The disease practically disappeared when universal mandatory immunization was finally implemented. There have been no cases of diphtheria in the United States since 2004 although it is still a threat in some third world countries. In 1878 diphtheria killed Maria, the four-year-old granddaughter of Queen Victoria, and a month later her mother, Princess Alice, died after catching it from Maria. It is the worst imaginable sore throat with massive swelling of the lymph nodes in the neck accompanied by a thick infected membrane on the surface of the mouth, tongue, throat and voice box that impedes swallowing and breathing, especially in young children, whose passages are already narrower. Since it is passed by close contact via coughing or touching, it rages through families, often killing multiple members. (Ladd R. Cropper, Early History of Millard county and its Latter-day Saint Settlers, 1851-1912.

[104] *FamilySearch* memories, Robert Bodily Journal KWZM-K77.

In Dry Creek, Teancum Taylor shared his family's flour until it ran out around the middle of February, when he hired a man by the name of Lew Brown to go with him to Heber City to get supplies. They took 14 head of horses and a wagon, leaving a cache of oats here and there along the trail for their return trip. At Heber they bought 2,800 lbs. of flour, packed 200 on each horse, and returned on foot, driving the horses. In March the flour was gone again, and another trip had to be made. This time "T" and his son James made the long trek to Green River, Wyoming.

Discouraged and starving, around the first of April a large company of settlers left the valley via the Strawberry route, but they were unable to get to Heber City until the latter part of May.

The first provisions from Green River, Wyoming, a trip of 150 miles, were delivered sometime in May, the men barely escaping the spring runoff that made the Green River uncrossable. By the time the teams arrived, every morsel of food had been consumed. The return of the party who brought food was the greatest event of the year, and everyone turned out to welcome them.[105] None of the people died of starvation that winter.

Israel Clark, who accompanied the departing company on the Strawberry route to secure provisions, did not return until July 4, 1880. He was detained by the snow in the mountains and by high water in the Duchesne River.

During the difficult winter, a group of 136 citizens sent a petition to the Utah Territorial Legislature asking them to form a new county in Ashley Valley, pointing out that traveling to Heber City was too hard and too far. In response, the legislature created Uintah County out of portions of Wasatch, Sanpete, Juab, and Utah Counties on February 18, 1880. The county seat was Old Ashley.[106] Pardon Dodds was appointed a Selectman for Uintah County by Governor Eli H. Murray.

The first meeting of the county court was held in the Bill Gibson's old house that he had moved from his homestead to the Ashley townsite during the Meeker disturbance. It was a log building, sixteen by thirteen feet in size and one and one-half stories high. The house was situated on a tract of land fronting the street between Lycurgus Johnson's store and P. Huffaker's.[107]

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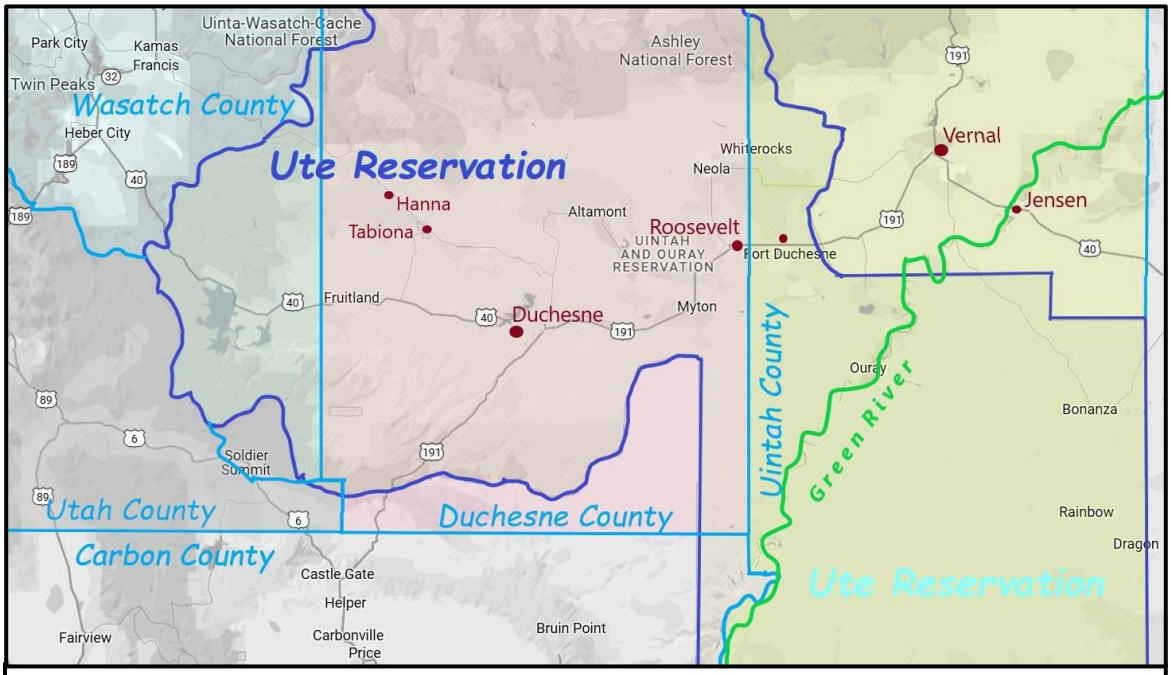
[105] *FamilySearch* memories, Alfred Johnson KWJZ-1WT.
[106] The county seat was moved to Vernal in 1893.
[107] It was used for that purpose for four or five years, after which the county moved it to Ashley Center on the bench, where it was used as a county building until 1899.

The first county attorney was William Ashton.[108] His payment was set at 25 percent of all fines collected. The Legislature selected Thomas Bingham as county probate judge.

In the spring of 1880, the Ute Chief Ouray signed a treaty with President Rutherford B. Hayes that resulted in the removal of the White River and Tabeguache Utes from Colorado to the Uintah Basin, largely the result of the Meeker Massacre. The peaceful Taviwac (Uncompahgre) Utes, led by Chief Ouray, were removed with them in late 1879 to the 1,912,320 acre Ouray Reservation on the Tavaputs Plateau south of the Uintah Reservation, right where the White River Mormon settlers had arrived in late 1879. The Colorado tribes were not initially combined with the Utah Utes.



Current Uintah Basin Counties with Initial Ute Reservation superimposed.

[108] William Ashton arrived at Ashley Valley from his home in Pleasant Grove with his seven year old son Stanley to homestead on the south part of the bench in Ashley Center on September 1, 1878. He was born in 1837 in Alabama. His mother died within a week of his birth. He was possibly an illegitimate child, his father said to have been Robert Ashton, born around 1811. His stepfather, Robert Holman died when William was five. Nothing more is known of his youth except that he enlisted as a 21 year old in the Parowan militia in 1856 and was later a pony express rider, who helped Isaac Burton to run the Green River ferry from 1858-1859. He married Ellen Croxford in Pleasant Grove in 1863. Ellen and their other five children would not join them until 1880.

Meanwhile, some people moved their cabins out of the Bench fort back to their farms the following spring, but others stayed, jokingly calling the location Jericho for the biblical walls of Jericho, or Hatch Town, for the three Hatch families who anchored the fort. They finally settled on Ashley Center.[109]

Having survived the winter, people began putting their lives back together again. Robert Bodily[110] wrote:

> We had a few cows that was left giving milk and the horses getting in better condition, and there being a store, I hitched up my horses and made two or three trips to Salt Lake City for freight for James Gibson keeping store at Ashley. The next thing is school. The schoolhouse was at Old Ashley, a mile and a half through brush (probably on Bill and Mary Gibson's farm, built in 1878) and the children had to be taken over the river, which at times in spring could not be crossed with safety and the people of that part of the county were increasing with immigrants fast. We started school in private houses until we could build a house.[111]

Bill Gibson was appointed to be the first county constable in May 1880, and a second constable was appointed to serve the Brown's Park precinct, but when the first county election was held later that year, Lycurgus Johnson was elected to replace Gibson.

A great deal of outlaw activity occurred in the area, especially in remote Brown's Park. Jail facilities were inadequate before the turn of the century. After Uintah County was formed, local prisoners were often boarded in the sheriff's or constable's homes. If the prisoner was considered dangerous, he was handcuffed and the officer sat up at night and guarded him. The first county jail was built in 1883. It was twelve by fourteen feet, with stone walls two feet thick and nine feet high, covered with square timbers six inches thick, and featured a durable door with substantial locks and hinges. The door was lined with sheet iron and there was one window with bars. The roof was covered with dirt.

The lore of Uintah County includes many stories of the activities of outlaws who frequented Vernal and sought refuge in Brown's Hole, a part of Uintah County until 1917. Characters like Butch Cassidy, Elza Lay, Queen Ann Bassett, Gunplay Maxwell, David Lant, and "Mad Dog" Harry Tracy are among the best known, but many other outlaws also left their mark on the county. Native Ashley Valley outlaws included David, John, and Alma Rasmussen,

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[109] *FamilySearch* memories, David Johnstone KWZY-WSH.

[110] Robert Bodily was born in England in 1844, immigrated to Utah in 1860 where he married Harriet Roberts in 1869. After living in Kaysville about three years the family moved to Lewiston, Idaho, from where they came to Ashley in November 1879.

[111] This would have been in what is now Maeser, just south of Ashley Creek. *FamilySearch* memories, Robert Bodily journal KWZM-K77.

James McKee, and Robert and Charles Atwood.[112] The outlaws spent a lot of time in Ashley and Vernal saloons. Charlie Crouse of Brown's Hole, who was perhaps the worst outlaw of them all, bought a saloon in Vernal and kept beds upstairs for outlaws.[113]

Seventeen Mormon women enrolled in the first Relief Society of Ashley Valley, which was organized June 1, 1880. Since there were no doctors in the area, care of the sick was mostly through the relief society including the yearly diphtheria epidemics.[114]

Riley and Martha Lambert Green

As soon as high water subsided in Woodland, Mary Gibson's sister Martha Adelaide Lambert, the oldest child of John and his first wife Adelia Groesbeck, made their move to Ashey Valley with her husband Riley Green to run a small water-powered flour mill. They took their nine children aged two months to twelve years. Riley had two brothers living there as well as his in-laws, the Gibsons, the husband of his wife's sister. Riley and Adelia's daughter Sarah Green wrote in her autobiography[115] that by working in Reynolds' mill, Riley earned another load of flour after which he helped to tear it down and they loaded it onto two heavy wagons. Sarah walked and drove the cows. It took 17 days to make the trip, and when they arrived in July they went to the place where Riley's brother Benoni had homesteaded. It was 169 acres of rich land in the north east part of the valley, just east of Gibson's farm near Pardon Dodds. They had to put up a new log house as soon as possible, and logs were easily had for the cutting and hauling. According to Sarah, although there were many single ranchers in Old Ashley, the Greens were only the fourth family to come there. The three other women were very happy to have another woman and some girls join them. Sarah and her older sister Floretta were old enough for school but didn't go regularly since they were needed to tend the younger children. They belonged to the Ashley Center Branch under Jeremiah Hatch according to branch records.

The census taker for the brand new Uintah County was William Ashton, the county attorney. He began his count on June 1, 1880, on the bench in Ashley Center with David

[112] The Atwoods are distant cousins of mine.
[113] *FamilySearch* memories, Law and Order KWVG-RWH.
[114] Manuscript History of Uintah Stake Relief Society 1880-1934, p.1.
[115] *FamilySearch* memories, KWZ1-VNN.

Johnston, the first man to settle there. There were 12 families living on the bench, most of them connected with the Hatch group. Two days later Ashton was at the White River settlement, 30 miles south at present day Ouray. In addition to the Mormon immigrants, there was also a number of cattle dealers. This was the former site of Kit Carson's fort and the first trading post of the French Trader Robidoux. All these families were soon to be displaced when the White River Utes were relocated.

By June 5th, Ashton was counting the families at Ashley Fork including Lars Jensen, the ferry man and the Snyders and by June 7th, he was back in the Valley, counting the families on the Ashley Creek. On June 10th, Ashton was at Whiterocks, which was not actually in Uintah County—perhaps Ashton didn't know that. The first name there was A.C. (Heat) Hatch, the cattle ranching son of Bishop Abram Hatch with two herders. Next to him was the Indian Agent, John Critchlow,[116] who had an active role in the conflict involving the White River uprising in Colorado. On one occasion during the uprising, his life was threatened by the hostile Indians of White River, but the chief of the Uinta Utes intervened, shielding Critchlow with his own body and begging the agent to move his family away from the reservation. Critchlow refused to leave and was able to quell the disturbance.[117] On the 11th, Ashton was in Dry Creek, and on the 19th Ashton counted Pardon Dodds with his wife Minnie and the three Green brothers Benoni,[118] Ephraim,[119] and Riley, who was married to Adelaide Lambert, Mary Gibsons older sister.

James Gibson, listed as a merchant, was living next door to his brother Bill and his wife Mary. Nineteen year old George Heber Langston[120] was a herder living with the Gibsons, a nephew of their neighbor George Freestone. Then on June 21st, the very last name listed in the census was Ashton himself with two of his sons Leslie and Stanley, 11 and 9. Ashton's wife and the rest of his children joined him in Ashley Valley later that year.

After living for a year in the house that Bill had dragged to Old Ashley town, the Gibsons returned to their ranch and built a new house.

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[116] Critchlow's term as Ute Indian agent lasted until his replacement in 1883. From "Historical and Genealogical Sketch of the Critchlow Family" by Harriet Critchlow Jensen in his FS memories KXJV-TV2.
[117] After his term of service was completed, he moved his family into Salt Lake City." He was replaced around 1883-1884 by Elisha W. Davis.
[118] Benoni later married Julia Lark in Woodland in 1885 and lived in Vernal until about 1901 when he moved to Teton, Wyoming, where they lived at least to until1906. Their last child was born in Park city in 1909.
[119] Ephraim Green and his wife moved to Vernal from Castle Dale before February 1891 when their seventh child Ada was born and died the same day. They had lived in Woodland since about 1875, where they were married in March 1878. They moved to Wellington around 1885.
[120] The next year George Langston worked at the Indian agency at Whiterock and later in a store at Ouray, where most of the customers were Indians. After working there for two years he returned to work for Bill Gibson on his ranch, and there he met Anna Mary Nielsen, who was also working for Gibsons.

In 1881 Will Britt built a two story eleven room log house in Old Ashley with extra rooms for visiting strangers. The town had three saloons, a butcher shop, and a drug store besides Pardon Dodds' trading post. That year Britt and his wife Elizabeth Montgomery sent to Iowa for his daughters Lillan and Gertrude from his first marriage, who came on the train and met him at Green River.

Riley Green and Martha Adelaide Lambert's daughter Mary Ellen died in Old Ashley a week before her fifth birthday. I do not know the cause of her death, but at that age and time, it was likely diphtheria.

Sarah Adelia Gibson was born to Bill and Mary, their third child on January 27, 1881. It was an early spring, and her parents were ploughing the garden by the time she was three weeks old. On April 28, 1881, William and Nellie Ashton's five year old son Reece died of diphtheria at Ashley Center. Robert and Mary Snyder's son Robert, the first boy born in Ashley, had died of diphtheria on March 22 at the age of two years and 10 months.

In 1881, White River Utes in western Colorado rose up against encroachment by hostile white settlers. With continued unrest, the government determined to set up a military post nearby,[121] and Major H. S. Hawkins was ordered south out of Fort Steele, Wyoming at the head of four companies of the 6th Infantry on August 21, 1881, consisting of 200 men, 75 six-mule teams and 75 pack mules. They named the post Fort Thornburgh in honor of the officer who had been killed in the Meeker rebellion. During the fall there were problems with squatters (these may have been the Cache County group), but by the end of the year, the hostile White River Utes and also the peaceful Uncompahgre Utes were forcibly moved across the Green River into the Uintah Reservation in Utah, and an Indian agency was established there. Due to the failure of congressional appropriations, the troops were kept in tents during the winter. The Cache Valley settlers, who had arrived two years earlier mostly moved to Ashley Valley.[122]

Ashley Valley was re-organized from branches into two wards, named "Ashley Ward" in the valley and "Mountain Dell Ward" in Dry Fork on Sept. 10,1881. Jeremiah Hatch was installed as bishop of Ashley Ward, and Thomas Bingham was installed as bishop of Mountain Dell.

In 1883 Bill Gibson's mother and his stepfather George Crouch moved from their home in Beaver to Old Ashley, where Crouch served as the Uintah County clerk and was elected a delegate to the Ogden Convention that year.[123]

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[121] https://parkcityhistory.org/diplomats-on-horseback
[122] https://www.uen.org/utah_history_encyclopedia/f/FORT_THORNBURGH.shtml
[123] *Salt Lake Herald*, 14 May 1892, p. 2.

On January 21, 1882, Richard Benoni Green was born to William and Martha Lambert Green.

The U.S. Secretary of the Interior complained to the Secretary of War that the troops at Ouray would have a bad influence on the Utes, and that Fort Thornburgh took up most of the good agricultural land on the new reservation, so in the spring of 1882 it was decided to move the fort to the mouth of Ashley Creek.[124]

The proposed fort had been planned for 32 buildings to house four companies of men and encompass over 21,000 acres. The officer's quarters were to be a dozen or more fine two-story homes built on the north facing south. The adobe barrack were to be on the west facing east with stables, barns and granaries east next to Ashley Creek. In theory, $84,000 was allotted by Congress for the large fort to be built there, but all they got that year was a sawmill.

The soldiers built a good road over Taylor Mountain to make it easier for freight to be brought in. This move was a help to the people of the valley, since the soldiers bought needed provisions.

A branch was organized just south of Ashley Center at Naples that year, where several of the families who had been displaced by the White River reservation had settled. Thomas Bingham was replaced as probate judge by a non-Mormon to fill Bingham's remaining term, when he went into hiding from federal marshals.

A ferry was built at Ashley Fork to cross the Green River in 1882. It became the center for a community with two general stores, two saloons, a post office and hotel. The name Jensen came later from the gentile ferry operator, Lars Jensen.

Jensen Ferry

During the summer of 1882 the four infantry companies assigned to Ft. Thornburgh constructed a wagon road and a telegraph line north through the Uintah mountains over Taylor Mountain to Carter Wyoming, a railway town near Fort Bridger. A sawmill was built on Taylor Mountain. The main force was reassigned to Fort Douglas on October 16,1882, leaving a detachment of

[124] The real reason for its removal was because it was not only difficult to get supplies to the old Fort across the Green River, but that the settlers in Ashley needed more protection. (Dillman, Early History of Duchesne County, p. 82).

thirty men commanded by Lieutenant Lyman W. V. Kennon to act as guard detail and continue construction on the fort.

In the spring of 1883 Thomas Bingham Sr., Jeremiah Hatch, Israel L. Clark, Thomas Carson George Glines, and Thomas Bingham Jr. were set apart by Francis M. Lyman as missionaries to the local Indians. They held a meeting at White Rocks and baptized eight or 10 Indians and then went down near the mouth of the Duchesne River to help the tribe figure out how to get water to their crops before the effort was cut short by the Indian Agent.

In May 1883, Jeremiah Hatch was set apart as Bishop of the Ashley Center Ward.

That year the valley got its first physician, Dr. Harvey Hullinger,[125] who built a home on Ashley Creek about seven miles south of the fort.

Dr. Hullinger

Three companies returned to Fort Thornburgh on June 23, 1883, but Congress only appropriated $1,500 for construction, far below the expected $84,000. And when the Indians quieted down about 1884, the army decided to leave Ashley. The officers moved to Fort Douglas in Salt Lake City, and the soldiers abandoned the post on July 22, 1884.

The stake in Ashley Valley was renamed Vernal by the L.D.S. Church in 1884, and the Post Office Department changed the name of Ashley Center to Vernal in 1886 to avoid confusion with the post office in Old Ashley, but the town of Vernal wasn't officially incorporated until 1897.[126] That year there were six Relief Societies in the valley: Ashley Center, Mill Ward, Mountain Dell, Merrills Ward, Glines, and Riverdale.

On New Years Day, 1884, 14 year old Sarah Adelaide, Martha Lambert Green's second daughter, married John Owen Evans in Vernal. John had recently come with his friend Henry Harder to the valley, driving a herd of cattle to Wyoming and then hauling supplies for the army to the new Fort Thornburgh.[127] He came into Ashley with a good team, wagon and six cows and money in his pocket. John came from Kamas to visit the Greens. On New

[125] Dr. Hullinger came to Utah in 1859 at the age of 59 having served for a short time during the Civil War as physician in the Lot Smith Company of the Union Army. He practiced in Vernal until he was in his mid-90s and delivered over 1,000 babies there.
[126] https://historytogo.utah.gov/vernal
[127] *FamilySearch* memories, Sarah's life Sketch KWZ1-VNN.

Year's Eve he took Sarah to the big dance in Old Ashley Town where their good friends George and Annie Langston were to be married, and they decided to get married too. They spent their first winter in a lean-to, helping the Langstons to improve their 160 acres. For a wedding present, Bill Gibson had given the Langstons six hens and a rooster as a wedding present and loaned them a man and a team to help clear the 80 acres that George had homesteaded. They lived there for several years and got title to the 80 acres when the homestead was proved up. Here their first three children were born.

Now retired, the long- serving Indian agent John Critchlow died in Salt Lake City in a carriage accident on June 29, 1884.

Floretta Green, Martha Adelaide's sixteen year old daughter married Joseph Burton, one of Isaac Burton's children, on December 15th. Joseph was 24 and born in Coalville but his family were pioneers in Ashley Valley and experienced the hard winter of 1879-80.

To escape a warrant for his arrest by the federal marshals for polygamy, LDS President John Taylor went into hiding. There was great concern among the polygamists in Ashley Valley. Thomas Bingham Jr. wrote,

> In March 1885 we thought that the U.S. Marshal was coming here to arrest the polygamists. There were a number of us that left the valley and went over into Castle Valley. Jeremiah Hatch, J.H. Clark, Frank Hadlock and I went over to Huntington, Castle Valley. We stayed there until after the last of April when we got word that there was nothing doing. We returned home on the first day of May.

Ashley Center was surveyed March 8, 1885. The first commercial store, Blythe and Mitchell, opened in Ashley Center in 1885, serving as both a general mercantile business and a post office on the southwest corner of the main intersection. Other businesses sprang up on the old fort site on the bench.[128]

James Gibson shot himself dead in his home in Old Ashley town on May 5th. According to his niece Sarah Adelia Gibson, when Bill learned about it, he got his riding horse and rode to town as fast as his horse could carry him. Sarah was astonished to see her father so excited. She was just four years old.

James' stepfather, George Crouch, took over James Gibson's store and became the leading merchant in Old Ashley, shipping merchandise from ZCMI in Salt Lake City to stock the store that he inherited from his stepson James Gibson.[129]

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[128] *FamilySearch* memories, KWZY-WSH.
[129] *Salt Lake Herald*, 31 October 1882, p. 9.

Putting the Colorado and Ute tribes together in the Uintah Basin caused intertribal friction, especially when the Bureau of Indian Affairs merged the Uintah and Ouray Reservations in 1886. The Indian agent Elisha M. Davis downplayed the violence in his report to the bureau, acknowledging "exaggerated rumors of war among the more warlike tribes to the north and south," but reported “marked progress…in quieting the feeling of envy and jealousy which has always existed between the two tribes at this agency," including increased intermarriage.

Nine Mile Canyon Road was constructed in 1886 to connect the Ute Reservation at Ft. Duchesne to the railroad that passed through Price. At the bridge over the Duchesne River, Henderson’s Indian trading post and Caldwell’s stage station and a blacksmith shop were erected, which later became the town of Myton after white homesteading began in in 1905.

The road was built by the Ninth Regiment of “Buffalo Soldiers”[130] out of Fort Riley, Nebraska, one of four African American regiments created in 1866 to serve on the American frontier. The term Buffalo Soldiers was invented by the plains Indians because the soldiers’ black, kinky hair reminded them of the hides of bison. The Nine Mile Canyon Road supplied stagecoach, mail, freight, and telegraph service to the Uintah Basin until the arrival of the Uintah Railway around 1905.[131]

The Colorado Utes resisted the forced merger with the Utah tribes, and many tried to return to Colorado, which led to the construction of a military post three miles above the junction of the Uintah and Duchesne Rivers on the north part of the reservation named Fort Duchesne.[132] “Fort Damn Shame” was a nickname the soldiers gave their new home.

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[130] Photo courtesy of the Fort Douglas Military Museum.

[131] It was not paved until 2014. Due to approximately 1,000 rock art sites in the canyon with more than 10,000 individual images, hundreds of pit-houses, rock shelter, and granaries from the ancient Fremont culture dated AD 950-250, Nine Mile Canyon was named on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's list of America's Most Endangered Places. Wikipedia.

[132] Fort Duchesne was founded under the direction of Major Frederick William Benteen, made famous in the Civil War and also in the Custer Affair for not arriving in time to save Custer. On reaching Uintah River the troops, having marched about 30 miles without water or anything to eat confronted 700 Ute and Ouray Indians in full war dress and paint and hostile. General Crook also arrived in an army ambulance. Thinking he had reached the Duchesne River, he raised the US flag and said, “This is the future Fort Duchesne.” Picket lines were thrown up and trenches dug. The troops stayed in them for three weeks short on ammunition and provisions. Two companies of colored cavalry from Ft. Washakie, Wyoming re-enforced the beleaguered companies. (Builders of Utah p. 187.)

When the troops arrived, they were confronted by 700 Utes, but there was no fighting. Fort Duchesne was to replace Fort Thornburgh, which had been abandoned by the army during the winter of 1884-5. It was midway between the Whiterocks and the Ouray agencies. After a brief move to Heber in 1885 the Britt family of Vernal moved to Fort Duchesne to run a hotel while the fort was being built.

In 1886, prospectors found a valuable hydrocarbon near Fort Duchesne called Gilsonite, which is useful in making paints and other industrial products. The mineral strike led to incursions onto reservation land by white men looking to strike it rich. In 1888, Congress designated 7,004 acres holding Gilsonite deposits on the reservation known as "the Strip" to be open for mining, which included modern-day Fort Duchesne, a lawless area known for loose morals and party atmosphere. In return, the Utes were given a $30,000 annuity.[133]

In the fall of 1886, a post office was established, and Ashley Center was officially named Vernal. Mitchell was the first postmaster.

That year Bill and Mary Gibson took their children James and Madie to school in Denver. Sarah Adelia wrote that the money for the trip to Denver was given by Grandma Crouch as a part of Bill's share of Uncle James' estate. They returned to Ashley in the fall of 1887.[134]

Thirty-six year old Mark Moroni Hall was clerking in George Crouch's store in Old Ashley, when he became ill in late April 1887. Doctor Hullinger pronounced it inflammation of the bowels, now known as appendicitis. He gave him a dose of morphine and tried to pour strong coffee down him. Someone rode to Fort Duchesne to get the government doctor to come, but when he arrived, Mark was dead in his bedroom adjoining the store, having been sick for three days. Mary Gibson gave the government doctor a Durham cow for his trouble.

The Ashley Valley Co-op mercantile store opened in the fall of 1887. Mary Gibson and her three children were back from Denver and attended school in a building on Ashley Creek with a single large log room for grades one through five. Students could advance as quickly as they were able. When Sarah was in seventh grade she attended school on the southeast corner of her father's pasture on Spring Creek. For eighth grade she was tutored at home by Mr. Crouch. The next year she went to the Uintah Stake Academy, a new three-year high school in Vernal to prepare for the University of Utah.[135]

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[133] https://parkcityhistory.org/diplomats-on-horseback

[134] Sarah's life story is long with a lot of details in the eyes of a young girl and is worth the read. *FamilySearch* memories KWZN-W7B.

[135] The academy opened in Vernal on December 18, 1888. The Brigham Young Academy (now the Brigham Young University) at Provo had been established in 1875, and Vernal was one of a number of stake academies, which taught full high school courses in addition to theology. Others were opened in Logan in 1877, Salt Lake City in 1886, Fielding Academy at Paris, Idaho in 1887, and then in 1888, Ricks, Snow, Oneida,

The Ute chief Soviette died in May 1888, and he turned his tribes over to the peaceful Chief Tabby. These were the Timpanogos, Uintah, and Sanpitch Utes, numbering about 4,000.

Old Ashley was still the county seat, but it was the new town of Vernal that prospered. By this time George Crouch's store (instituted by his stepson James Gibson) was the only business left in Old Ashley, but it continued to do well. Vernal began to attract more services and businesses, centralizing activities that were once spread among all the smaller settlements in Ashley Valley,[136] including the discontinuation of mail service at the Old Ashley Post Office.

In 1889 a significant improvement in communication was achieved when a daily stage service began, securing the postal contract and enabling "next-day delivery" of mail from Salt Lake City to Myton via Price, considerably reducing the isolation of the Basin's inhabitants.

The law finally caught up with the former bishop Jeremiah Hatch, when a warrant for his arrest was signed at Fort Duchesne on May 7, 1892 for unlawful habitation.[137] He pled guilty and paid a fine of $50. Thomas Bingham was not so lucky. A month later, two U.S. marshals arrested him, and he was sentenced to three months imprisonment in Sugar House prison and fined $80.

Riley and Martha's daughter eighteen year old daughter, Julia Mariah, married 28 year old Alvin Elwin Dieter in Ashley. He was born in Pennsylvania. She already had a three year old son named Daniel.[138]

Mary Eliza Gibson, who was attending the University of Utah, married Nelson General Sowards in Salt Lake City on August 10, 1893. She was 18 he was 31. Nelson had joined the Church as a teenager in Kentucky before his family moved to the Mormon Colony in Manassa, Colorado in 1881. He got a degree from the Brigham Young Academy in Provo in 1885 and attended the University of Utah before he moved to Vernal in 1891 to be the principal of the LDS Academy, where he met Mary Eliza when she was a student. They lived in Vernal, where they had 10 children.

Snowflake, and St. Johns. Others followed. In 1921, because of the quality of state schools, most of these became LDS seminaries associated with high schools. By 1930 only seven remained: BYU, Dixie, Gila, Juarez, Ricks, Snow, and Weber.

[136] *Salt Lake Herald*, 21 September 1889, p. 3.

[137] The Manifesto had been issued September 25, 1890.

[138] On the 1900 census in their new home in Meridian, Idaho, Daniel's father's birthplace is unknown, and his mother's is Utah. Alvin died suddenly and without warning at the age of 42 in Vernal on December 14, 1906.

Ashley Center Ward changed its name to Vernal Ward on December 17, 1893. Bill Gibson's cabin courthouse was moved from Old Ashley to Vernal that year and the town became the Uintah County Seat.

Bill's stepfather, George Crouch, died April 12, 1894, and was buried on the family farm by his own request.[139]

Butch Cassidy bought a .45-caliber Colt six-shot revolver in 1895 from the Ashley Valley Co-op in Vernal, but he and his gang maintained good terms with the people of Ashley and Vernal, doing their skullduggery elsewhere.[140]

Bill Gibson served in the first legislature of the new state of Utah in November 1895 at the age of 50. He returned home after one session in Salt Lake, which involved taking the train to Price, Utah, and the stagecoach north from there over the mountains to Uintah Basin and Vernal, to find the stage had already left and the next one wouldn't leave until Monday. Rather than wait, he walked the125 miles home.[141]

Vernal was incorporated as a city in 1897, and a substantial courthouse was built to finally replace Bill's old cabin, solidifying Vernal's role as the county's administrative center.

Rebecca Lambert, Sena's seventh child, moved from Peoa with her husband Ephraim Marett to the Mill Ward in Ashley Valley in 1897. They lived next door to Ephraim Green, who eventually was awarded a homestead in that area. Their seventh child was born June 1, 1898 in Mill Ward.

Mary Eliza Gibson's husband Nelson Sowards conducted the census in Vernal on June 1, 1900. Although younger than the Greens, Bill and Mary Gibson were empty nesters by then with all three of their children married and living nearby, Riley and Martha Green were living with six of their 15 children. Riley's brother Sanford[142] and his wife Irene were living next door, having gotten married seven months earlier.[143] The Langstons, Steinakers, and John and Sarah Green Evans were living nearby. Two doors away from the Gibsons lived the family of David O. and Maria Antoinette Mackay, whose eight year old daughter Winnie would later marry into the Lambert family.

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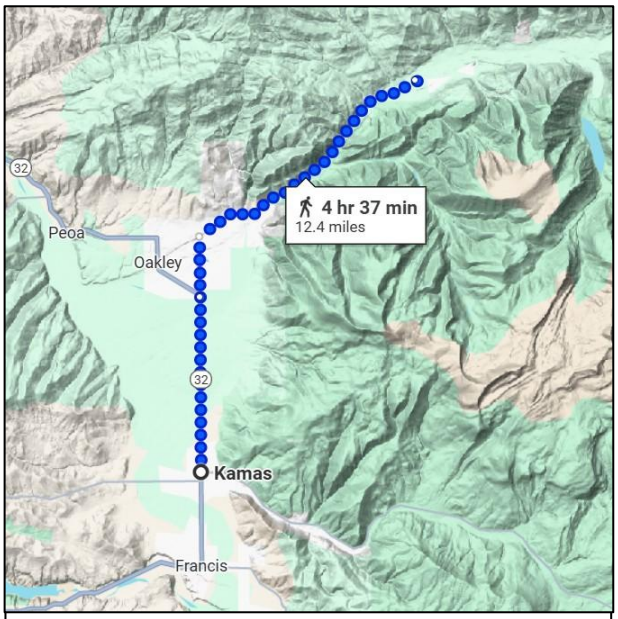
[139] *Deseret Evening News*, 23 April 1894, p. 5.
[140] *FamilySearch* memories, KWVG-RWH.
[141] *FamilySearch* memories, KWJ4-LNF.
[142] Sanford Green was married again on February 8, 1908 at the age of 30 to Elvira "Vera" Rasmussen. They had five children in Uintah but moved by 1935 to Mohave, Arizona.
[143] Irene died three weeks later on June 21 at the age of 20. She died of a premature birth.

Chapter Three – Kamas, Woodland, Heber, and the Michies

In the spring of 1874, Johnny Lambert, Bill Gibson's 25 year old militia buddy and older brother of Bill's soon-to-be wife Mary Adelia, filed a homestead claim on 160 acres about a mile southwest of Kamas.[144]

According to his obituary Johnny, the oldest of the Lambert boys, went into the lumber business, cutting trees in Lamb's Canyon and made a living transporting logs to the Salt Lake Valley in his younger years.



By 1876, Johnny's brothers Richard and Jedediah and their half-brother Joseph had built a lumber mill with and "up and down" saw on the Weber River upstream from Oakley about 12 miles from their home in Kamas, near what became known as Lambert Flats.[145] All three boys were between the ages of 22 and 25 and unmarried. In the summers, their younger sisters Ann, Emma, and Mercy cooked for them, and Johnny drove the girls up and back in an ox-drawn wagon.

Sena Lambert

Around 1877 their father John Lambert built a new house for his second wife Sena on his lot east of the old house with three rooms downstairs and three upstairs around the time that Bill Gibson and Mary Adelia Lambert moved to Ashley Valley with their two small children.

Riley Green's brother Ephraim,[146] who also lived in Woodland, married Sidney Thayne on May 9, 1878 and was living in Ashley Valley by 1880.

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[144] John Carlos Lambert's claim was proved up on March 13, 1879.

[145] *FamilySearch* memories, "A Little About my Life by Mercy Lambert Lewis, p. 2. KWC2-KQY.

[146] Ephraim Green was born in Garden Grove in 1848 and served in the militia in Sanpete in 1866. He had four children in Woodland between 1879 and 1885. He had two children in Carbon County before returning to Vernal by February 1891 and had three children by 1895. His wife Sidney Thayne died there in 1913. He married Catherine Randegger in Manti October 29, 1919.

That summer 15 year old Elena Lambert, one of Sena Lambert's girls, saw young Robert Moroni Michie for the first time, a young man from the tiny settlement of Sunrise on Bench Creek. He was with his cousin Tom Potts at the co-op store in Kamas. She was impressed, but no one could have guessed at the time how intertwined the Lambert and Michie families would become during the next seven years.

Elena's older brother Ephraim Lambert became acquainted with Robert Michie's sister Agnes at about the same time, possibly through her cousins Frank and Bert Potts, who met the Lambert brother while building a house in Sunrise. After going up an old mine road to cut down trees, they dragged them to the Lambert brothers' sawmill[147] to cut into four by eights. Agnes was born in Boston, where her parents ran out of money on their way from England to Zion and had to stop for a couple of years. On March 9, 1880, Ephraim Lambert married Agnes Michie in Heber, and they moved into the recently vacated Michie's house in Sunrise. Ephraim was 20 and Agnes was 18. Eventually, there were three marriages between the Lamberts and the Michies, so I will give readers a flashback to the history of the Michie family.

Agnes' father Robert Michie was born in Rubislaw, Aberdeen, Scotland on the North Sea 95 miles up the coast from Glasgow. At the age of eight he began to work summers herding cows, going to school during the winter.

When Robert was about 23 years old, he entered an apprenticeship in the milling business for board and lodging that included about $150 in wages during his third year. He had a common law wife named Margaret Cardon, whom he left pregnant to emigrate to Cape Town, South Africa. There he worked as a miller. He later tanned leather, worked at a wharf, and then took passage to Port Elizabeth, hoping for a better deal. There he worked on a farm for three years and eventually went into partnership with an Englishman named James Cook to buy it. There he and Cook met a Mormon elder and were baptized in December 1854.[148]

Unfortunately, they were financially ruined when the Rinderpest killed their animals. Having suffered persecution in South Africa, Robert decided in 1856 that he needed to emigrate to Utah, so he boarded a ship for England, hoping to finance his trip to America through the Church's Perpetual Immigration Fund. During the voyage he happened to meet

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[147] By this time, the Lambert brothers had moved from the "up and down" sawmill at Lambert Flats on the North Fork of the Provo River to a bigger mill with an efficient circular saw in Soapstone Canyon on the South Fork of the Provo, likely at the junction of Soapstone Creek and the Provo River.

[148] Port Elizabeth (now known as Gqeberha) was founded in 1820 where 4,000 British colonists settled in Algo Bay about 465 miles east of Camptown.

a Mormon crew member named Thomas White, who totally changed Robert's life and became his life-long friend. White had joined the Mormon Church in Faversham, England when he was 16 years old before going to Africa as a sailor and was now returning to marry his sweetheart, Alice Potts. When Robert accompanied Thomas to his fiancée's home in Faversham,[149] he met Alice's older sister Fannie,[150] and they had a double wedding on March 16, 1857. Robert was 37 years old, and Fannie was 21.

Robert and Fannie left from Liverpool 12 days after their wedding, traveling with the Whites in the ship George Washington *with the apostle Ezra T. Benson and 14 returning missionaries. The crossing took only 21 days, very fast for a sailing vessel.*

Heavy immigration and the infamous catastrophe of the handcart companies had depleted the Perpetual Emigration Fund, so the Church announced that there would be no immigrants funded in 1857. Having spent all they had for the crossing, the Whites and Michies could go no farther than Boston, and they were not alone. Of the 2,000 saints who emigrated from Europe in the spring of 1857, 1,302 stopped in the eastern United States or on the frontiers until they could earn sufficient to carry them on to Zion.[151]

The two couples lived for a time in Boston, where two children were born. Thomas White worked as a tailor, and both families lived in the same house on Homer Street for the first year. Robert Michie worked in Boston as foreman in a salt mill for four years to earn enough money to move west.[152] Thomas and Alice White left Boston on June 21, 1860 and travelled to the Valley via the William Budge Company, the last group to cross the plains that year, leaving the Michies in Boston, who followed in 1861 with two children. The Michies' eighteen month old daughter Eliza Ann Helene became ill with "the black canker" (scurvy) and died at August 26, 1861 at Ice Spring on the Sweetwater, not far from the end of the journey, leaving them only one child, two year old Agnes, who eventually married Ephraim Lambert. Just a few months after their arrival in Utah Territory, Fannie bore their first son, Robert Moroni Michie, in Sugar House. He later married Elena Lambert. The family moved briefly to Malad, Idaho and then to Nephi.

The Michies had another child named Harriet in Nephi January 11, 1864, and Alice Mathilda Michie, who later married Joseph Lambert, was born there two years later during a pause for winter, nine months into the Utah Blackhawk War. In March, Chief Sanpitch and several others were captured near Nephi by Utah militia Major Warren S. Snow, and the war

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[149] The Potts girls were born in Barton, Faversham, Kent, England, a market town about 48 miles from London and ten miles from Canterbury dating to pre-Roman times.
[150] Frances Potts' family called her "Fannie," so I will too.
[151] *FamilySearch* memories, Thomas Phillip White bio KWJQ-LM3.
[152] Conquerors of the West.

continued another two or three years, chiefly in Sanpete and Millard Counties. Possibly looking for a safer location, the Michie family returned to Sugar House where Robert ran a flour mill and a salt refinery.

After a few years the family moved back to Malad, Idaho to run a flour mill, but didn't stay long, coming back to Sugar House where Robert worked as a miller. They had a baby they named John on June 14, 1868, who died at the age of 10 months. Mary Ellen was born there on February 9, 1870. Della was born in Salt Lake City on July 28, 1872, where Robert had moved to run an old grist mill near the train depot.

Sometime between 1873 and 1875 Robert Michie moved his family to Mountain Dell, where they lived for several years. Mountain Dell was way station for travelers on the overland stage and also a pony express stop at the base of Big Mountain above Emigration Canyon where Mountain Dell Reservoirs now is.[153] *It was too small for a branch of the Church or school.*

The Michies remained close to the White family. Thomas White had taken a plural wife, a British widow named Elizabeth Hillard Broderick with four children, who bore him a daughter named Adelia in 1869, but Elizabeth died giving birth in the Salt Lake 14th Ward in May 1871, leaving Thomas and with four boys aged 7-14 from her first marriage and their 18 month old Adelia. Elizabeth's three boys were sent to Ephraim to be raised by her sister, and Frances took in Adelia with her own six children in Cottonwood. Her last baby was born there a year later.

Thomas White had a sister named Elizabeth Blackley, who lived with her husband at Hailstone Ranch north of Heber (now underneath Jordanelle Reservoir). She may have influenced the Whites to move to the Provo River Valley around 1874, where they took up some land on Bench Creek[154] *20 miles up the Provo River from Hailstone. It was a tiny settlement called Sunrise in those days, about two miles southeast of Woodland. Soon other settlers took up land there. Their sixteen year old son Thomas Adolphus "Dolph" White would later marry into the Lambert family.*

Woodland was a six-mile-long string of farmsteads on the upper Provo River in the south part of Summit County in a fertile, mile-wide valley. Because of its elevation of 6,850 feet, the main livelihood there is dairying, although timbering was important at the time of initial settlement in 1867. After a steam sawmill was brought to town by John Johnson Thayne[155] *in 1878, lumber and railroad ties were exported to markets in Park City and Salt Lake City.*

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[153] https://utahstories.com/2024/11/mountain-dells-legacy-how-utahs-pioneers-shaped-our-water-future
[154] Jenson: p. 961.
[155] John Thayne was the father of Sidney Thayne, the wife of Ephraim Green. He proved up a homestead of 160 acres straddling the Provo River in Woodland.

As the need for lumber declined, residents found new forms of employment and created a thriving dairy industry."

Back to the Michies…

Fannie Michie's ninth child, William George Michie, was born in Mountain Dell on October 19, 1875. Probably through the Whites, Michie became interested in the nice little valley about 40 miles away, and off they went to join them in Sunrise during the winter of 1877[156] *along with Fannie's younger brother George Potts, a 33 year old bachelor. George was a peddler who sold different kinds of cloth, lace, ribbons, buttons, thread and all kinds of notions and carried his goods in a big valise. George drove the team while Robert and his 14 year old son Robert Moroni brought the cows. They reached the place in March, coming all the way by sleigh.*

Robert Michie had a farm and a blacksmith shop at Bench Creek and served there as postmaster for eight years, resigning at the age of 81.[157]

As mentioned in Chapter Two, Wasatch Stake was organized on July 15, 1877, and Abram Hatch, previously the bishop in Heber, became its first stake president. Woodland is in Summit County because it is on the north side of the Provo River, but Sunrise, which is on the south side of the river, was part of the Wasatch Stake. The new stake president Hatch appointed Elder John T. Moon president of Bench Creek Branch in Sunrise.[158] *Bishop Moon ran a sawmill in Bench Creek.*[159]

In the spring of 1878, Fanny's 18 year old brother Thomas Potts, who had lived with the two couples in Boston, immigrated to Utah in 1862 with a young family and settled first in Cache County before moving to Sunrise on Bench Creek with his wife Julia and eight children. They settled near a spring close to the cabin of his brother George.[160] *Thomas built a small water powered mill to grind grains for feed, which also served most of their neighbors. Fannie and her husband, Robert Michie lived close by.*

On June 1, 1878, Fannie's last baby Christina was born at Bench Creek.

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[156] Or possibly 1878, since in Alice was said in one story to have been 12.
[157] *Salt Lake Tribune*, Mar 20, 1901, p 1.
[158] Heber East Ward records p. 125/425 and Jenson's Encyclopedic History of Mormonism, p. 961.
[159] Moon took a second wife in polygamy just before the Manifesto on June 7, 1890. He was released as bishop, his son also named John Moon taking over in 1891, and went with his young wife to Mexico, where they had 10 children. His first wife chose to stay behind with their seven older children, several of whom settled in Vernal and Jensen.
[160] Twenty year old George Potts also immigrated in 1862 and lived for a time a Bench Creek. He never married.

In the winter of 1879 Robert Michie Sr., now fifty-nine years old, got a job working as a helper for the holidays in Abram Hatch's flour mill in Heber. There was no road down the Provo River, so he had to travel a steep road over the mountains to the south to get to Heber. There was no school in Sunrise, not even a Sunday school, so he took his 13 year old daughter Alice with him so that she could begin school after the holidays. However, they came right back when her nine year old sister Mary Ellen got diphtheria. To avoid infection, Alice wasn't allowed in the house and stayed with Mrs. Melvina Reynolds, a Swedish immigrant with three boys living across the river in Woodland, so she wouldn't "carry" it. Mary Ellen Michie died on January 13th, the fourth of Fannie' children to die young. None of the other Michies contracted the disease that month, nor did her Uncle Tom Potts' five children aged 3-14, who had helped all through Mary Ellen's illness. But two other young families in Sunrise each lost a child.[161] *Then in April, five year old Della Michie got diphtheria after sharing chewing gum with another little girl. Ephraim Lambert, who was 19 and courting Agnes, the oldest Michie girl, rode a horse home to Kamas to get medicine, and although Della had a terrible sore throat and couldn't walk for a while, she recovered.*

Robert Michie claimed a homestead of 120 acres on the Provo River about a mile west of where Bench Creek enters the Provo River about halfway to Woodland. It was proved up on May 10, 1884.

Elena Lambert finally met Robert Michie Jr. when Ephraim took her along with him to visit Agnes Michie in Bench Creek.

The new Lambert mill up Provo Canyon grew into a productive lumber business which eventually added Ephraim and Dan Lambert, two more of Sena's sons, and it continued to operate at least through the summer of 1892. It employed 15-20 men during the spring, summer and fall. The Lambert boys' sisters and sometimes their wives were employed to cook for the work crews.

[161] Nephi and Elizabeth Thayne had five children under seven and lost a five-year-old. John and Mary Moon had four children under 10 and lost a two and a half-year old.

There is a Lambert Hollow about 2.5 miles[162] up (south) Soapstone Creek on a dirt road called Soapstone Basin Road. The mill could not have been there because the creek is too small there to move the lumber out, but it was probably a favorite camping and hunting ground for the Lambert family.

Alice Michie had to wait another year to begin her schooling. In the winter of 1879, the whole Michie family moved to Heber, which not only provided a good job for Robert, but also school, Sunday school, primary, and all that a larger town could offer in those days. Robert's job was helper in the flour mill. If he was only a helper, technologies must have changed radically since he had been apprenticed to a miller as a teenager and had worked previously in mills after immigrating.

Around that time the Thomas White family left Sunrise and returned to Cottonwood including Dolph who by then was 21. In the 1880 census Dolph's job was called "teaming

[162] As the crow flies—the road is very windy, probably twice that long.

from mail." I'm not sure, but I suspect that means that he delivered mail to outlying post offices, which may have given him a chance to remain in touch with Ann Mariah Lambert. Next door to the Whites lived Fannie's brother George Potts, living with Simon Smith. He had evidently returned with the Whites.

Except for their married children, the families of both of John Lambert's wives appeared in Kamas in the 1880 census as a single household of 17 people including four sons over 20 years of age working at the lumber mill. Sena's 22 year old son Ephraim was missing from the family, having married Agnes Michie just two three months earlier. The newlyweds were living next door to Agnes' uncle, Thomas Potts, on Bench Creek up the Provo River from Woodland, probably having taken over the house of her parents after they moved to Heber.

Adelia Lambert's oldest daughter Martha was living with her husband Riley Green on the other side of Kamas with their nine children, the youngest of whom was only a month old and had not yet received her name of Mercy Elizabeth. The Greens were preparing to move to Ashley Valley, where Martha's sister Mary and her husband Bill Gibson had been living by then for nearly three years.

Adelia's daughter Sarah and her husband, Silas Pack, lived in their own house in Kamas with four year old Sarah Ann and a newborn daughter who soon died before being named.[163]

Alice Michie was finally able to begin first grade when the family moved to Heber. She was a teenager by then and graduated in three years. School was only held in the winter months.

Ephraim and Agnes Michie Lambert's first child, Mary Alice, was born in Woodland on April 15, 1881.[164] The Woodland Branch was reorganized as a Ward on July 25, 1881, with John Moon's father Henry as bishop.[165]

Joseph Lambert's summers at the sawmill financed his secondary education. He was a member of the Brigham Young Academy class of 1882 during the Karl G. Maeser years.[166] Brigham Young had established Brigham Young Academy as a three year high school on October 16, 1875, and classes began on January 3, 1876 with 29 students. Karl G. Maeser

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[163] Silas and Sarah also had a son named Mosher, who was born June 9, 1877, and would have been three. I cannot find him in any other household, so it seems possible that at the census taker made an error.
[164] She was baptized by Nephi Thayne and confirmed by Daniel Mitchell on July 14, 1889.
[165] Henry had been bishop of the First Ward in Salt Lake City from 1856 to 1870 after which he served a mission to the Central States and moved to Farmington. He was a polygamist with three wives. After his first wife died he came with their children and his other two wives to Woodland in 1881, possibly because of his called to serve as bishop.
[166] *Roosevelt Standard*, June 12, 1941, p. 1.

arrived from Germany that April and became the principal. At the time that Joseph attended Brigham Young Academy, the school was located in the Lewis Building[167] on Center and 300 West in Provo. I have not been able to learn how many years Joseph attended, but I assume it was three years and that he graduated, since he was a member of the BYA Emeritus Club, Class of 1882.[168]

Alice Michie met Joseph Lambert around 1882 while he was visiting her older sister Agnes and Joseph's younger brother Ephraim in Heber. Alice and Joseph courted for three years.

Thomas White's oldest son Dolph married Adelia Lambert's 21 year old daughter Ann Maria (Ephraim and Joseph's half-sister) in Salt Lake City on March 15, 1883. Dolph had moved back to Cottonwood by 1880 with his father and family, but after their marriage they moved back to Bench Creek, where Dolph farmed.

It was probably in the summer of 1883 that Alice Michie began her first turn cooking at the Lambert sawmill. She and Elena Lambert were good friends, and they worked together. Elena did the cooking and Alice helped. They later told stories of nearly drowning while crossing the Provo River together and of the time the cookhouse caught fire, destroying their food, bedding, and clothing. After the fire, one of the boys rode horseback to Bench Creek to re-supply their food and Elena and Alice had to go to their homes in Kamas and Bench Creek to get material to make themselves new dresses.

Dan Lambert, the younger brother of Joseph and Ephraim, eloped to Heber to marry a 17 year old neighbor girl named May Isabell Young on March 5, 1884. She was a niece of Brigham Young's, the daughter of his older brother Phineas Howe Young through his eighth wife, Elinor Maria James, who had been a seamstress to an earl's wife in England. When May Young's father learned of her interest in the 24-year-old Dan Lambert, he threatened to send her to Salt Lake City, which is why the couple eloped to Heber. They hid out there for about three months and then moved to the Lambert brothers' sawmill in Soapstone Canyon where she cooked for the men, a summer job that continued for the next five or six years while the brothers fulfilled a contract to supply native timber for the mines of Park City. At other times the Lamberts had contracts to move a million board feet of lumber down the Provo River and to haul timber to support the tunnel for the Union Pacific Railroad in Echo Canyon.[169] As a couple Dan and May, though quite compatible, were a study in contrast. He weighed about 240 pounds and measured 6 feet 4 inches tall. May was

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[167] After a fire in the chemistry lab burned the building Lewis building down 1884 the school continued in several buildings before coming together in the ZCMI warehouse until the Brigham Young Academy building was built on University Avenue in 1892. The Academy did not achieve university status until 1903.
[168] *Provo Daily Herald* June 4, 1949, p. 9.
[169] *Roosevelt Standard*, October 30, 1941, p. 1. And *FamilySearch* memories, Dan Lambert--Life Sketch KWCD-KGS.

slender and petite. Although Dan was intelligent, he received little formal education. He read extensively and was knowledgeable in many areas, especially in the field of business. May had received the best education available and had a quick, sharp, intellect. Dan was calm and conservative, and May was excitable and a bit eccentric, said to have not only mastered women's work but also most farm chores. They lived in a small, three-room house that May's father Phineas Young had built near four Lambert families, three of the Lamberts living in a row. Dan's father John Lambert was the farthest east from Dan and May, and his half-brother Johnny lived east just across the street. Jedediah Lambert and his family lived a block to the south from John, so the new family grew up with cousins all around.[170]

On July 13, 1884, 17-year-old Alice Matilda Michie was rebaptized by Robert Michie and confirmed by J. Duke. Robert also baptized and confirmed his eight year old son William George Michie that day and another eight year old, Philip Alma Lee, his next-door neighbor.[171]

Joseph Lambert's church membership record was transferred in the fall of 1884 from Kamas into the Heber East Ward. He had bought a lot in Heber out of his earnings from the sawmill and began to build a house on it. He was 28 years old and still not married. His lot was in the East Heber Ward on Center Street and 6th East, the same ward that the Michies were in. It was about a block away from Robert Montgomery, a widower who was courting Joseph's sister Mary Elizabeth Lambert.

Back in Kamas, Sena Lambert's seventh child, Rebecca, married Ephraim Marett on January 26, 1885. They had seven children there before moving to Vernal in 1897, where they lived until the reservation opened to homesteading.

That year Dan Lambert and May began to homestead 40 acres about a mile northeast of the town of Francis, which they proved up in 1890. At Woodland, Ephraim and Agnes had Darrel, their third child, on August 16, 1885.

In September 1885 deputy marshals made a raid on Heber, arresting Joseph Moulton, John W. Witt, and John Duke and taking them to Salt Lake City. No doubt John Lambert and the other polygamists in Kamas took note of this, and it might be part of the reason that John's two wives were living in separate houses. And sure enough, soon George Naylor and Daniel Lewis[172] were arrested in Summit County on charges of unlawful cohabitation fined $60 each and imprisoned for 60 days. I know of no such treatment of John Lambert.

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[170] *FamilySearch* memories, Autobiography of Lyla May Lambert Smith KWCD-KLY.
[171] Heber East Ward Records, p. 66/425.
[172] Daniel Lewis lived in Marion, the uncle of Mercy's boyfriend Daniel Bowen Lewis.

Mary Elizabeth Lambert and Robert Montgomery were married in the Logan Temple on October 9th. Robert was a blacksmith who had immigrated at the age of seven with his mother and siblings in 1862 from Scotland and went straight to Heber.[173] Robert's namesake father, a former coal miner who had been serving as the President of the Mormon District in Ayrshire, had arrived a year earlier and was one of the original settlers of Heber. He suffered from pneumoconiosis, the coal miners' lung disease, and died only a few months after the family arrived.

Robert Montgomery's former wife of eight years had died childless. Robert was a friend of Dan Lambert's who had worked for the Lambert brothers at their lumber mill, and it was at their mother's house that he met Elizabeth.

Just six months after the Montgomery wedding, Joseph Lambert and Alice Matilda Michie were married in the Logan Temple on January 7, 1886. It was a double wedding. Joseph's younger sister Elena Dorothy Lambert married Alice's brother Robert Michie on the same day. Counting Ephraim's marriage to Agnes Michie five years earlier it was the third marriage between Sena's children and the Michies. They had two receptions: one at the Lambert home in Kamas and another at Bench Creek with the Michies. After the wedding Elena and Robert moved into a cabin on his father's homestead near Woodland. Elena wrote that from the money she earned in her summer work she made quilts, pillows, and a featherbed for their new house.

Alice Michie and Elena Lambert

Alice and Joseph moved into their house in Heber in mid-January after spending some time in Kamas.[174] Two rooms of the house were finished, and there was some furniture but no water. Joseph soon dug a well, and in the spring he added a cellar and another room to the house.

Alice was sick that spring and summer, probably due to morning sickness, as their first child, Joseph Robert, was born November 11th. In Joseph's obituary it is said that he

[173] One of the church leaders of their company was William Gibson, the uncle of our Bill Gibson.
[174] There is a detailed story of the wedding trip in Alice's *FamilySearch* notes KWZ7-NMC and one by Elena as well at *FamilySearch* memories KWCF-4V5.

brought the first poles for electric street lamps to Salt Lake City by ox team, which would have happened around this time.[175] Joseph later became a member of the Heber City Council and served as the Wasatch Stake Sunday school superintendent for 15 years. According to East Heber ward records, "Joe Lambert" confirmed the rebaptism of nine men in the East Heber Ward the day after Pioneer Day that summer. There were several others baptized that day.

Joseph Robert Lambert[176] was born in Heber City on November 11, 1886, sooner than he should have been, according to one account. He slept so much at first that they had to wake him to nurse, and he was small enough to sleep in a shoebox. Although he was born 10 months after their marriage, Robert seems to have been born prematurely, but he became "bright as any other baby" after six weeks. Several of Alice's pregnancies seem to have produced premature births.

Dan and May Lambert's second child, Lyla May, was born in Kamas when Joseph and Alice's Robert was six weeks old.

Joseph wrote years later of his first son,

> When Robert was old enough to walk and be cute, he took very sick with very high fever. Our neighbors and the bishop done all they could for us and our little boy kept getting worse. We were worn out for lack of sleep. As night came Alice and I layed him in bed. He was so low his hands hardly looked like hands. His eyes had gone back into his head... He would not move. I could see that death was not far off so as I (lay) down on one side and his mother on the other. I could not go to sleep so I kept on praying that the Lord would spare the life of our only child. All of a sudden I knew he would get well... I turned over and went to sleep... I knew he would be better... That little boy's life was spared, and he is now your husband.[177]

About two years after Alice and Joseph were married, the flour mill in Heber where Alice's father Robert Michie worked was sold, so he and Fannie moved back to their farm at Bench Creek.[178] Their daughter Della Michie recalled:

> When I was sixteen, it was decided to put rollers in the mill instead of having the old stones which Father used, so he left the mill and moved back to Woodland on the farm, (where he built a new house.) I worked for my living from then on. One winter I

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[175] Salt Lake City turned on its electric street lights in 1887, the fifth city in the country to get them.
[176] To avoid confusion with his father, Joseph Heber Lambert, I will henceforth refer to Joseph Robert as simply Robert (and occasionally "Rob" if quoting).
[177] Letter from Joseph Lambert to Winnie Mackay Lambert in Roosevelt, May 17, 1942 in possession of Linda Lambert Bateman.
[178] Heber East Ward records show that Robert Michie family of six removed in 1888. p. 150/425.

> spent in Weber Canyon helping Agnes cook at the railroad tie camp, of which her husband (Ephraim) was boss. At this camp we were snowed in for six weeks, but we had plenty to eat and plenty of wood to burn. I also worked at the Lambert sawmill and at the camp for the railroad graders that ran through Woodland.

What Alice wrote of that event was that she missed her mother. Elena Lambert's daughter added:

> Grandpa kept the Post Office at Woodland for years. It was a small room at the east end of the kitchen. At one time a Mrs. Williams, a widow, was mail carrier. She came from Kamas every morning, with a horse and buggy, rain or shine. Grandma always insisted on her coming into the kitchen to get warm and to have a bite to eat.[179]

Joseph and Alice's second child, Ralph, was born in Heber November 14,1888.

Twins named Clarence[180] and Clyde were born to Ephraim and Agnes in Woodland, their fourth and fifth of nine children, on May 5, 1889. By this time there were two schoolhouses there. Frank Potts, Alice's cousin wrote: In order to go to school, we made a trail down the side hill to the river and found a couple of logs to reach over the water for a bridge.

When Ralph was about six months old, Alice took the children up the canyon to so she could cook at the Lamberts' sawmill, where Joseph was working. She wasn't there long when on June 27th Joseph received a mission call to Holland, and they returned at once to Heber. Joseph accepted the call, but wrote to the missionary committee, that he could not pay his own way.[181]

Elder Lambert was on his way to Europe by August 14th on the ship *Nevada* and first spotted land on September 2, 1889, having been seasick most of the way. After a week in Liverpool for training, he arrived in Amsterdam with two other missionaries, unable to speak a word of Dutch.[182]

To help finance Joseph's mission and reduce her loneliness, Alice rented part of her house in Heber to Joe Sessions and his wife Isabelle, who had been married that April. Sessions was 26 and his wife Isabelle was 21.

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[179] *FamilySearch* memories, Myrtle L. Michie Wilcken KWNL-6GD.
[180] When they moved to Roosevelt two decades later, Clarence wrote a useful chronicle of the early development of Roosevelt, which I will use in the next chapter.
[181] Joseph's acceptance letter was co-signed by Bishop Robert S. Duke, so it was sent from Heber.
[182] An excellent history of the Netherlands Mission includes the years of his mission. Church History Library LR 6007 2.

In the fall, Alice moved back to Bench Creek to live with her parents for a while, leaving her house to the Sessions, whose baby Jeanette was born there on December 5, 1889. Alice eventually evicted the Sessions family for not paying their rent.[183]

Frances Potts

During the second year of Joseph's mission, Alice's mother Fanny invited her to come to Bench Creek for Christmas. Alice thought a change would be good for her, but sickness was spreading through the ward. Although she was careful not to take her children out, two year old Ralph got sick on December 31st with a fever and rash and could hardly swallow. Fannie sent for Sister Van Tassel, "kind of a doctor." Ralph improved a bit, but on the 10th of January he began to have trouble breathing and within two weeks he and three other children in the Sunrise Branch were dead. Alice sent to Park City for a coffin which cost $15, and Dan Lambert took his team with his parents and Alice's parents to Heber to bury him. Her mother stayed with Alice and four year old Joseph for a couple of weeks, and then her sister Della stayed a while. Joseph had been on his mission for a year and four months by then. He did not receive the news in Amsterdam until February 5th.

In 1891, Ephraim Lambert replaced John T. Moon as bishop of Woodland. According to Alice Michie's cousin Frank Potts, Bishop Moon decided to go into polygamy and marry another woman, so he took $700 of the tithing money and went with her to Mexico.[184]

Joseph Lambert returned from his mission[185] on May 24,1892 with three Dutch boys: John Bosgeiter, Herman Westbrook, and Art J. Kooyman, who stayed with Lambert brothers until they could settle in. Soon after he got home, Joseph and Alice joined his brother Dan and Dan's family working at the sawmill for the summer, where Alice and May again provided the cooking for 15-20 mill workers. Dan's daughter Ila May wrote of that summer:

> The lumber business was uppermost in our minds as father and his brothers owned and operated the sawmills for many years. They furnished timbers and lumber for

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[183] They Sessions moved a couple miles east to Center Creek where Joe's parents lived, and their next three babies were born there, but they moved around 1897 to Vernal, and then to Jensen. When the reservation was opened for homesteading, they moved to Hayden near Neola. Joe Sessions died there at the age of 48 of a ruptured appendix.

[184] *FamilySearch* memories KWC5-C1X.

[185] Joseph Lambert kept a journal of his mission. It can be read in Church History Library MS 17970.

> the mines in Park City. This provided employment for many of the settlers both in Woodland and Kamas as the lumber had to be hauled by wagon and team. Since the roads in those days were in very bad shape, it took about three days for a trip between the mill and Park City.

That October Joseph and Alice attended General Conference in Salt Lake City, the first that Alice had ever attended. Joseph's calling as superintendent of all the Sunday schools for the Wasatch Stake took him away from home almost every Sunday according to Alice, leaving her alone with their little ones.

Joseph's 16 year old brother Parley Lambert died in Kamas December 4, 1892, of typhoid pneumonia. He was engaged to marry Sarah Amelia Pack when he came of age. It was doubly tragic since he was the only child of John Lambert left at home and the only help John had on the farm in his declining years. Parley's fiancé Sarah Pack was his half-cousin, the oldest daughter of Sarah Amelia Lambert and Silas Pack. She died two years later at the age of 18, also of typhoid fever. They were sealed posthumously nine years later in the Salt Lake Temple.

Della Lambert was born to Alice and Joseph Lambert on February 15, 1893. According to the ward record, she was blessed the same day by Thomas Nicol.[186]

In 1893 Dan Lambert was sent on a mission to West Virginia, where he contracted malaria and returned after six months weighing 150 pounds, a loss of 90 from his original weight.[187]

Ten year old David Leroy Lambert, a son of Ephraim and Agnes, died after falling 14 feet from the rafters of their barn where he had climbed to look at a pigeon nest. His brother Darrel was eight and the twins Clarence and Clyde were four, and two of them were with him. He was knocked unconscious but awoke and managed to walk a half mile home. His parents were away camping, so his grandmother Fannie Michie took care of him. She saw that his head and abdomen were bruised, and he died the following day before his parents arrived home.[188] My guess is that he had a ruptured spleen.

Parley L. Montgomery was born in Heber to Elizabeth Lambert and Robert B. Montgomery and blessed November 2nd by John M. Murdock.

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[186] Thomas Nichol was a man of many sorrows. He was a coal miner from Scotland who immigrated with his wife to Utah in 1853. She died bearing their tenth child, the only one to survive longer than 20 months. Thomas quickly married a 19 year old Danish immigrant to care for his infant son (who later died at the age of seven.) Together they had 11 children of whom only three survived to adulthood. They had left Sanpete County to be early settlers in Heber, where he married two more Danish immigrants, each of whom bore him one child, and one of those died at the age of three.

[187] *FamilySearch* Memories KWCD-KGS.

[188] *Deseret Evening News,* September 18, 1809.

Three days later, John Lambert died at the home of his son Dan. He had suffered a stroke several weeks earlier. He was 73.

Robert Michie was commissioned postmaster at Woodland the following April.[189]

Darrell Lambert was baptized in Woodland on July 14, 1894, by Thomas A. White and confirmed by his father Ephraim.

Alice Lambert had another premature baby on May 20, 1896. It lived for one hour, just long enough for it to be blessed by Joseph and receive the name of Donald. Alice later wrote that she was very weak afterward, and that it took her longer to gain strength than a natural birth would have done.

Elizabeth and Robert Montgomery had a boy named Shield on April 19, 1897. He was blessed August 1st by Robert Duke in Heber East Ward.

On October 13, 1897, John Benjamin Lambert, who was a decade younger than his brother Joseph, died in Kamas of diphtheria at the age of 26, leaving his wife Edith with four children aged one month to four. During the next two years their two youngest children also died of diphtheria.[190]

Two years and two months after losing Donald, Alice Michie Lambert bore Herald on August 1, 1898, giving her and Joseph three living children from five pregnancies. Robert was now nine and Della was five. Herald was blessed on his first day of life by their bishop, Robert S. Duke. Four months later, Ruby was born to Elizabeth and Robert Montgomery on December 26th and blessed June 4, 1899, by John Murdock.

The U.S. census for the year 1900 showed Joseph H. Lambert and Alice Michie Heber with three children. Robert was 13, Della was seven, and Harold was nearly two. Joseph's sister Mary Elizabeth and Robert Montgomery were next door with six children aged one through 11. Mary Elizabeth was pregnant with Dan Benjamin Montgomery, who was born in September.

The first 15 of the 65 households listed in Woodland were actually living at Bench Creek, since among them were John Moon, Jr., the bishop of Bench Creek, his cousin Hyrum Moon, and seven families associated with either the Michie or White families including Ephraim Lambert and Agnes. Living in Ephraim's household was Genevieve Michie, the

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[189] *Salt Lake Herald*, April 7, 1894, p. 4.

[190] Edith married William Evans October 7, 1903, in Heber, but he died six months later leaving her eight months pregnant. John Benjamin's remaining children were an 11 year old son and nine year old daughter. Edith was married a third time in Rexburg, Idaho to John Henry Mikesell in 1911 when the children were 9, 16, and 18.

daughter of Robert Moroni Michie and Elena Lambert.[191] They lived close to Robert's parents.[192]

Gladys was Alice's sixth pregnancy, born in Heber on December 6, 1900. Alice later wrote,

> When Gladys was a baby I was asked to be President of the Heber East Ward Relief Society. I have often wondered how they came to think of me for that position. I was in that position for I think it was nine years, then I asked to be released, for we were expecting to move out (to Roosevelt).

Dan Lambert was a Democrat who served a term as a County Commissioner of Summit county and was a member Utah Legislature, serving on several committees including Mines and Mining, Horticulture and Agriculture, Resolutions, Memorials, and Forestry.[193] His daughter Lyla wrote:

Dan Lambert's home in Kamas

> Father was elected to the legislature, and we moved to Salt Lake in January. I went to school for one week in Salt Lake and didn't like it, so I stayed at home. We went back to Kamas on the 26th of March.[194]

The next month Dan was sustained as bishop of the Kamas Ward and served until 1908, when he moved to the Uintah Basin.

Robert Lambert entered Brigham Young Academy in Provo just before his 15th birthday in the fall of 1902. He later wrote that he attended high school[195] there for a major part of three years and also did a little work at night school in Heber City.

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[191] Elena also showed in the census with her parents in Woodland.
[192] Opinions differ on whether they lived in in Woodland or Bench Creek. Actually, Robert's homestead land is closer to Woodland, but on the opposite side of the Provo River.
[193] Frank Elwood Esshom, Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah. Salt Lake City, Utah, Utah Pioneers Book Publishing Co., 1913.
[194] *FamilySearch* memories, KWCD-KGS.
[195] The Brigham Young Academy did not achieve university status until 1903.

Joseph and Alice's seventh child, Minola Lambert, was born in Heber on July 28, 1903. That fall, Dan's daughter Lyla May beggan school at BYA. On July 20, 1904, Alice's mother Fannie Potts Michie died in Woodland at the age of 68.

Ephraim and Agnes Lambert's oldest daughter Mary Alice Lambert married James Hoyt September 2, 1904, and they promptly took off for Samoa on a Church mission. Hoyt was a 25-year-old from Nephi, who had graduated from B.Y.U. After their mission they moved to Preston, Idaho, where James taught at Oneida Stake Academy.

Two years after Fannie's death, Robert Mitchie came to Heber to stay with his daughter Alice and Joseph for the winter, catching the eye of a local news reporter. According to the article, "Robert was one of the oldest men in the county (he was 86), but hale and hearty and reads the newspapers without glasses."

Joseph Lambert was released from his calling as Stake Sunday School superintendent in the fall of 1907 in anticipation of leaving for his new home in the Duchesne Valley, but on the official list of officers in the Heber Third Ward on February 9, 1908, Joseph H. Lambert's name appeared as the eighth on the list of Stake High Council members. The stake president was using the high council to facilitate the move of settlers to the Basin.

Hanne Nicol, seated

Della Lambert, Joseph and Alice's 15 year old daughter, graduated from eighth grade that May and spoke on the program. There were 24 in her class.

On June 12th, Della's mother's last child was born in Heber. He was delivered by Hanne Nichol, midwife.[196] According to Heber East Ward records, he was blessed on June 17, 1908, by Matthias F. Cowley[197] who named him Reed Lambert.

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[196] Johanna Nicol, the wife of the "man of many sorrows," who had baptized Della, immigrated from Denmark at about the same time as Sena Lambert, Joseph's mother. She studied midwifery in Salt Lake City and delivered over 800 children in Heber.

[197] Church History Library, Record of members collection, 1836-1970, Heber East Ward p. 394/425 CR 375 8. This is interesting. Matthias F. Cowley was an LDS Apostle at that time. He had been called to the LDS Council of the Twelve in 1897 and was asked to resign from the Council on October 28, 1905, over the issue of polygamy, but he continued to be an Apostle. In his autobiography Elder Cowley wrote, "After this action I have done very little preaching," making it unclear how the blessing of Reed Lambert came about, since it is unlikely that it was on an official visit to in Heber. In the record book, the entry appears in a long list of infant blessings, but except for Reed's, almost all of these were by members of the bishopric. The blessings were listed chronologically, but Reed's entry was inserted between July 5 and September 6, 1908, a month or two after the blessing took place. The Lamberts may have made a personal visit to the Apostle, and Joseph reported the blessing after the fact.

Two days later, Mary Elizabeth Lambert Montgomery died in Heber of cancer in her liver after nine months of illness. She was 42 years old and left nine children aged 18 months to 17 years.

Alice wrote that after serving nine years as president of the Heber East Ward Relief Society she asked to be released in anticipation of their move to the Basin. "It was quite a trial to me to leave my home and come out here and put up with all we had to do in this place." They left their home in Heber on October 28, 1908, for their new home in Roosevelt and arrived four days later with seven children.[198]

They rented their house on the east side of Heber to the county sheriff, Isaac Wall,[199] and a year later the house was bought by Joseph W. Cummings.[200] During their 22 years there, Joseph and his brother in law Robert Montgomery had sold building lots to six people, filling the space between them on the corners of their block with houses.

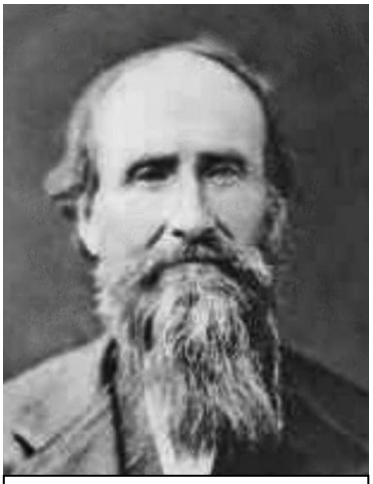
Joseph Lambert home in Heber 1908

The Lamberts moved directly to a farm a mile or two south of Roosevelt, which Joseph and Robert had secured two years earlier next to Ephraim Lambert's family.

[198] According to the Heber East Ward record, Joseph and Alice moved to the reservation with Robert, Herald, and Della. They may have omitted Gladys, Minola, Alta, and Reed because they were under the age of eight and not baptized members of the ward. Reed, the youngest, was only five months old. Two others had died as young children.

[199] Sheriff Isaac Wall was son of William Wall, former Utah County sheriff and founder of Wallsburg. Ike Wall was elected sheriff of Wasatch county in 1907 and moved to Heber the spring of 1908.

[200] *Wasatch Wave*, November 26, 1909.



Robert Michie

Alice Lambert's 89 year old father Robert Michie died at his home in Woodland of pneumonia on April 20, 1909. He was buried in the Heber cemetery.

Adelia Lambert died in Kamas on March 4, 1910, at the age of 87.

Chapter Four – The Uintah Basin

The unsuccessful treaty at Spanish Fork in June 1865 that was brokered by Brigham Young and the federal Indian agent Colonel O. H. Irish was designed to end the Blackhawk War by removing the Utes to the Uintah reservation, but that did not happen until the end of the war in September 1872, when the United States Army forcibly moved the remaining Utah Ute tribes to the Uintah Basin.

Eight years later, Chief Ouray signed a treaty with President Rutherford B. Hayes which led to the removal of the White River Utes, the Tabeguache Utes, and his own tribe, the Uncompahgre Utes from Colorado to the Uintah Basin.

During the following decades, conflicts with Native American tribes throughout the nation led to an evolution in the attitude of Congress and many other white Americans from merely confining Native Americans in reservations to educating their children in the ways of white Americans and their adult males to become gentleman farmers.

That attitude, along with pressures from competing interests of white settlement, mining, and the preservation of lands in national parks, led to a concept known as allotment, in which Native Americans would be given homesteads similar to the Homestead Act of 1862, which provided land to white settlers.

Since existing treaties stood in the way, it required an act of Congress in May 1902 to allow allotment of homesteads to Native Americans and to open the remaining reservation land to white homesteaders and other approved uses such as conservation and mining.[201] The proceeds from land sales were to be used for the benefit of the tribes. This led to a great reduction of the size of Indian reservations in favor of white settlers and industries such as mining and railroads.

In response, the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache tribes brought a lawsuit called Lone Wolf vs. Hitchcock in 1903, claiming that allotment violated their treaties, but they lost the case when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Congress had had the power to pass laws abrogating treaties. That ruling was especially devastating for the Utes, since their treaty stipulated that any allotment of homesteads to Native Americans or opening of the reservation to white settlers was to be done only with the consent of a two thirds majority of the adult male Uintah and White River Utes.

[201] A History of the Uintah-Ouray Ute Lands, p. 29.

Encouraged by the Supreme Court ruling, Congress appropriated funds to carry out the 1902 allotment act and stipulated that if tribal consent could not be obtained by June 1, 1903, that the Secretary of the Interior could allot the land without it.

In a council with the Utes in the Uintah Basin in May 1903, Indian agent James McLaughlin explained the Supreme Court decision. Allotments of 80 acres of agricultural irrigable land were to be made to heads of Native American families of the Uintah and White River Utes from Colorado, after which the remaining lands would be opened to white homesteaders.

Over the objection of Utah Representative Joseph Howell, the opening of the allotment was delayed until September 1, 1905, due to weather concerns. Howell had argued that the delay would cost the settlers and homemakers a whole year. In anticipation, the federal government withdrew over 1,100,000 acres for the Uinta National Forest.

Ed Harmston,[202] a professional surveyor in Vernal, worked for the government in preparation for the opening of the Ute Reservation to homesteading and had his eye on some land west of Fort Duchesne. He would go on to be an important player in the history of the Lamberts in Roosevelt.

A commission was chosen to allot property to Indians beginning on April 3, 1905. Utes who refused to choose allotments had land assigned to them, and 103,265 acres were allotted in under two months. About 765 homesteads were allotted to Native Americans in what is now Duchesne County, mainly the Utah Utes, and 691 to the Colorado Utes in Uintah County, most of which were near the agency at Whiterocks. About a fifth were along Lake Fork Creek on the upper Duchesne River. Any unallotted Indian lands were to be declared open for public entry in September for five years, and up to 640 acres could be sold for cash to any one person.

Dan and May Lambert's 18 year old daughter Lyla May was engaged to Bert Levi Smith, a 20-year-old from Draper, whose brothers had been working at the Lambert sawmill. Lyla May's autobiography[203] paints a picture of how people reacted to the homestead opportunity.

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[202] Edgar "Ed" Fernando Harmston was an Iowan who married Mary Cumberledge in 1884. Sometime after 1887 they moved from South Dakota to Whiterocks in the Uintah Basin to take charge of the Indian boarding school there. By 1890 they had moved to Ashley Center where he owned a drug store and was a registered pharmacist and postmaster. Harmston was also a professional surveyor, who worked for the government to lay out the homesteads in the Ute Reservation. (Founders of Roosevelt, Utah, page 1.)

[203] *FamilySearch* memories KWCD-KLY.

> In 1905 Bert was told about the opening of the Uintah Basin. Several men from Kamas and Uncle Eph Lambert from Woodland gathered at our place most every day and read and looked at maps and were very much interested in it. Papa and Mama both had sisters living in Vernal, and we had over a period of time made two trips to Vernal to visit there, and Papa was very much interested in the climate[204] and other things too. So, when the Reservation was going to be opened to homesteaders, Papa (Dan Lambert) thought it a wonderful opportunity for young men to acquire land cheaply.... A registration period was set for people to register at Provo, so Bert and Art[205] went. The older men were too old to register.[206]

Maud Pack,[207] a neighbor from Kamas wrote, "Everyone was madly excited about the prospects and future of the Uintah Basin. It would be only a short time, they said, until the railroad would push that far and once water was gotten to the dry, virgin soil, it would blossom as the rose."

Of all the accounts of the homesteading rush to the Uintah Basin, none is more colorful or informative than the autobiography of 26 year old Theo Phillips[208] of Springville, who settled on a farm close to Joseph and Ephraim Lambert. Theo began, "In 1905, about June, I hitched a horse to the single buggy. My mother, Sister Adah and I went to Provo and registered for the drawing of Uintah Reservation Land, which was being opened for settlement."

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[204] The elevation of Kamas, Utah, is approximately 6,690 feet, while the elevation of Roosevelt, Utah, is approximately 5,197 feet.
[205] Art was Art J. Kooyman, one of the three Dutch boys whom Joseph Lambert brought back from his mission.
[206] This is not true—there was no age limit. The problem was that many of the older generation had already exercised their homestead right.
[207] *FamilySearch* memories KWC4-KMP. Maud was a daughter of Austin Pack, who later was a neighbor to Joseph Lambert in Roosevelt.
[208] In 1899 when Theo was 20, he worked in Oregon grading the railroad and then was a student at Brigham Young Academy in Provo. I will quote Theo often in this chapter even though he is not a member of the Lambert family, to help fill in missing facts. *FamilySearch* memories, KWJZ-CTG.

In July, Joseph Lambert published the following notice in the Heber newspaper:[209]

> All parties who can furnish board and lodging (or either) to persons passing through Heber enroute to the reservation at reasonable prices are invited to report the same at once at the office of the undersigned or Joseph H. Lambert. Wasatch Development Co.

Joseph Heber Lambert 1906

Joseph was part of a group that had been set up by the Stake President William H. Smart to promote successful Mormon development in the Basin, all of which lay within the Wasatch Stake. According to Smart's biography,[210] for two years he and his companions had traveled by horseback into every corner of it to find the best opportunities for Church members to build towns and make irrigation canals. They had opened up a development office at Heber where they had maps to show and advice to give our people where best to settle.

A government sponsored lottery was held to organize the land rush. Prospective white settlers were to register after August 1, 1905. Each qualifying settler was given a certificate entitling him to go upon and examine the lands to "understandingly select the lands for which he may take entry." The order in which registered applicants could choose their homestead land over a 60 day period was to be determined by a drawing that was made on August 17, 1905. Vernal became a boom city as hundreds of people rushed in. Mormons and Gentiles alike entered the lottery to stake claims on the former reservation ground.

Joseph Lambert posted another notice in the *Wasatch Wave* on behalf of the development company on July 4, 1905:

> Fifty to one hundred teams (are) wanted to convey passengers over the reservation beginning August 1st and continuing from 30 to 60 days. A few freight outfits will be required. Good wages. We are not certain that teamsters will be permitted upon the reservation without first registering for homestead entries.

The notice was run again on August 11. There were several ads in the paper from businesses offering supplies and camp necessities at a "reasonable price."

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[209] *Wasatch Wave*, July 28, 1905.
[210] *FamilySearch* memories, Elizabeth Smart Rasmussen, William H. Smart Biography KWCL-TNH.

The *Wasatch Wave* posted the much anticipated outcome of the lottery for the residents of Wasatch County on August 25th. The total registration was 37,673 for the drawing, which took place in Provo, Grand Junction Colorado, Price, and Vernal. There were 5,723 numbers drawn.

Sixty days after the lottery, any of the designated land that was not claimed by lottery winners could be homesteaded by anyone who qualified under the Homestead Act of 1862. Between the lottery winners and the latecomers, over 15,000 homesteaders arrived that fall. People could also apply to set up a townsite on their property if they could demonstrate the propriety of founding a town on it.

Dolph White and his younger brother Ethelbert "Bert" traveled over Indian trails from Woodland to Vernal to enter the lottery drawing in Vernal, and Bert lucked out and drew number 13. They spent the rest of the summer living out of a tent, setting corner posts, grubbing sagebrush and greasewood until cold weather set in and snow started in October.

Theo Phillips drew number 225. With seven friends from Spanish Fork, he left for the Indian Reservation on August 21st by way of Diamond Fork through Strawberry Valley and then down the Duchesne River past Rock Creek. They camped one day just north of what soon became the town of Duchesne to look over part of the Blue Bench and then stopped to look over the lower end of Dry Gulch,[211] where he and some of his friends finally settled south of what soon became known as Roosevelt.

Dan's daughter Lyla May wrote that her fiancé, Bert Smith, had number 394, a fairly good early number. To meet the deadline set by the presidential proclamation for the filing, Bert and her father took off through the country looking for likely places.

The first filing date was August 28, 1905, when applicants who had drawn numbers 1 through 111 were allowed to register their claim. On the 29th, the next 111 people could file.[212] Theo Phillips filed in Vernal on the third day, August 30th. He wrote, "It cost me $16.00. We drove back to our claims, looked them over, and drove to Duchesne River for the night... We arrived home September 2nd about 8:00 p.m."

Dan Lambert's son-in-law Bert Smith filed on August 31st for his 160 acres by the Indian Bench about six miles northeast of present Roosevelt and three miles north of Ft. Duchesne, on which there were some large cattle ranches. The land was on a stream, so Bert felt really lucky. In the short time given, Lyla May explained, everyone had to put up a building with a door and window in it to show that they meant business. Bert's younger

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[211] Despite its name, Dry Gulch usually had water in it. They young people skated on it in the wintertime. Theron Lambert Notes.

[212] "To Hold the World Together," Casey McClellan, A Uinta Basin Homesteading History, 1905-1930.

brother Parley went with him and helped build the shack. They came home before Christmas after which Parley went on a mission to the Southern States.

Ahead of Bert and Parley on Indian Bench came Alonzo Abram Mitchell of Vernal, Utah, who is said to be the first Latter-day Saint to make a permanent residence in the former reservation and his family the only people who spent the whole winter of 1905-06 on their claim.[213] That is only technically correct. Mitchell, who was a professional stonecutter, had become aware of the area while cutting stone for the commissary and guardhouse for Fort Duchesne. He pitched a tent and put two of his sons in it during the summer to start farming, jumping the gun before the drawing. He didn't move the rest of his whole family of nine more children there until the summer of 1907, housing them in tents while he dismantled the family's cabin in Ashley Valley and moved it there. Between him and his two adult sons, the family ended up with three 160 acre homesteads. Mitchell had originally moved to Vernal from Kamas, and his wife Marian was Lyla May Lambert's aunt.[214] The settlers in Indian Bench came together as a town known as Cuneal.

Ephraim Marett, the husband of Joseph Lambert's sister Rebecca Cornelia, was one of eight homesteaders from Vernal who built small one room houses at Upalco (earlier Lake Fork) about 14 miles west of Roosevelt.[215]

Ephraim Lambert with his 20 year old son Darrel and his 16 year old twins Clarence and Clyde went from their home in Woodland over Wolf Creek pass to Tabiona on the upper Duchesne River in the fall of 1905, where Darrell claimed a homestead. They were accompanied by Joseph Lambert (and possibly Joseph's son Robert, who turned 19 that November.) Clarence wrote, "Everything was very primitive. Logs were gathered, but little building was done until the Spring of 1906." Ephraim and Joseph Lambert[216] decided to go on and scout further down the Duchesne south of Randlett. On September 20, 1905, Ephraim filed a claim for 161 acres in Section 30 of a township about four miles south of Randlett and 16 miles southeast of Roosevelt, but he would later relinquish it.

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[213] Andrew Jenson, Encyclopedia of Mormonism, p 58.
[214] Marian Mitchell was an older sister to Dan Lambert's wife, May Young.
[215] *FamilySearch memories*, Mitchell Cousins Reunion 1965 KWCW-QJN.
[216] Robert Lambert's wife, Winnie later wrote: "Joseph Lambert and some of his extended family came to the Basin to homestead in 1906. His son Joseph Robert spent many months farming on the reservation *before* (my italics) his family actually moved to the Basin." Robert himself wrote: "The two previous years I had spent much time there doing farm and canal work."

Neither Ephraim nor Joseph Lambert appear in the Bureau of Land Management homestead record for the Uintah Basin,[217] which suggests that the two brothers bought claims from other settlers.[218]

All of the early settlers faced similar conditions to Theo Phillips', who wrote of his own homestead near where Ephraim Lambert soon settled,

> On November 17, Jacob and I with Joe, Curo, Emm and Sailor in one wagon and another loaded with lumber and building material tools, bed, grub, and horse feed etc., started for the reservation and landed at the homestead about noon November 23rd. We pitched our tent in the northwest corner, and the next day we decided where to build our house and started building. Here there was some real pioneering to be done. The land was covered with white sage, clover sage, shale scale, sage brush, grease wood. There was very little grass, which made it bad for the horses as we had to buy hay for them, go eight miles for it and pay $13 when we could get it. We had to make canals (20-25 miles long) to get the water out of rivers. The soil was mostly cobble rocks cemented together. It was very slow work with teams, scrapers, plows, rooters and powder when we could get it. The building material (except some cottonwood) and sawmills were thirty to forty miles away and not very good roads. Two places to trade, Myton and Fort Duchesne. The soldiers were at the port, which helped out considerable when we got to raising hay and grain for market... The homesteader would have to drive their own cattle to the railroad.
>
> There was no churches, schools, nor recreation halls, no implement houses, in fact nothing to start with. Springs were few, and miles between with only trails to them made by wild horses that roamed the country. All clothing, food etc. (had to be) freighted in. Vernal, 35 miles southeast, (actually northeast) furnished some foods, potatoes, flour etc., also hay and grain by going after it. All of these homesteaders was supposed to have a cabin on it and establish residence on them six months after being filed on and not to be off claim longer than six months at a time... We also had to fight prairie dogs, (plenty of them) rabbits, grasshoppers, wild horses, coyotes, rattle snakes, magpies, lizards, crows, hawks, etc.

Theo continued:

> On November 25th we moved into the house—one room 14x16 square feet to the square; tin roof, ship lap lumber, no ceiling, one door in north (no window) as I was

[217] U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management General Land office Records, https://glorecords.blm.gov/default.aspx

[218] Darrell Lambert's homestead was proved up before five years of occupancy on March 3, 1909, which suggests that he paid for it in cash.

> not going to be there all the time. We had a railroad lamp and lantern, slept on the floor, no table, no chairs but for a few Jacob made, a table and two chairs that I used for many years after. This was the first house to be built on south side of Dry Gulch.... All this time we had to take horses 1½ miles to water and haul water to drink, except when we went for posts; we found some springs we could water going and coming.
>
> On one of those trips coming home with two loads of posts J. Garnet Holmes (homesteader) on the townsite of Roosevelt and another man stopped us, and we signed a petition for application to get a post office. It was to be called Roosevelt. It was very cold—way below zero... Posts all set, we started to dig a well on southeast part of place and went down about five feet, got mud but no water. We started another about 15 rods east of house, dug about 6 feet on the first day; from then on it was harder, blue shale almost like rock. After frost hit it and weather for six months it would crumble to dust. We were about 23 feet deep, and I dug some more when I came out the next July. Then I moved out later on and Robert Manley helped me to 57 feet deeper with the aid of a gin pole—making 80 feet and finding water, but it was bitter and salty... In the neighborhood where we were there were Ole Olson[219] and Frank Hamilton, both of Spanish Fork. Their houses were about 1½ miles from us. At the would-be town of Roosevelt there was a tent and a pile of cedar poles and baled hay.

Ed Harmston, the surveyor from Vernal, filed for the homestead that he had picked out near the junction of Dry Creek and Cottonwood Creek just north of where Ephraim settled, and decided with two other men to start a town there. When asked why he picked that particular site, he said it was because it was in the geographical center of the Uintah Basin.

He bought an additional 40 acres for $750 of script and pitched a tent on what he dubbed "Main Street." His two sons, Craig and Floyd, at first called the nascent town Dry Gulch, but his wife Mary said she would not live in a town by that name, so she overruled them and chose Roosevelt after the current president, after whom they also named their ninth child, delivered by Dr. Hullinger in Vernal September 22, 1906.[220] Most of the original town of Roosevelt occupied part of Harmston's 160 acre homestead. The rest was on parts of three other homesteads.

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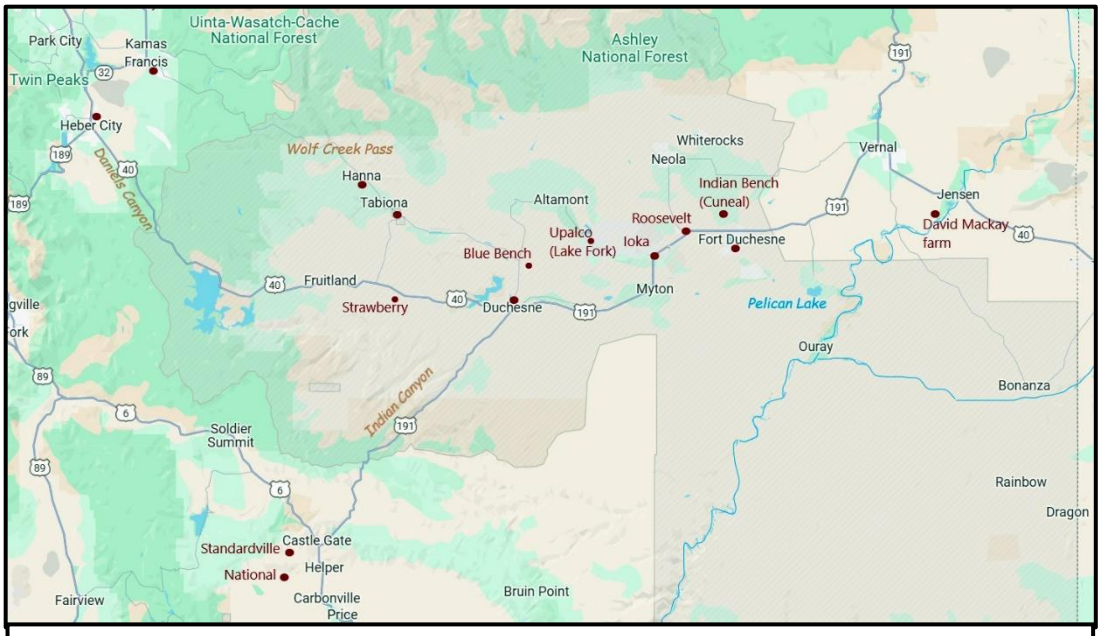
[219] It was Ole Olson's homestead that Ephraim Lambert eventually bought.

[220] Theodore Roosevelt had been inaugurated for his first complete term in March 1905, although he had replaced the assassinated William McKinley on September 14, 1901.

Roosevelt from 1906 post card



Map of entire Uintah Basin showing main towns mentioned in this chapter.

The future town of Duchesne, about 28 miles to the west, was developing at the same time. Alva Moroni Murdock, a stock raiser from Heber, had run cattle in the Strawberry Valley and served as an Indian Agent at Whiterocks in 1885, where he and his family ran a trading post and boarding house for government officials. On June 1, 1905, before the area was opened to homesteading, he received permission to set up a trading post at the junction of the

Duchesne and Strawberry Rivers. During the following rush of homesteaders, the area quickly attracted 46 adults and 14 children, who settled on the townsite which he initially called “Elsie.” [221] The first cabin there was built by Charles Dickerson and Charles Ragland in October. With the help of a few men, Murdock put up a large circus tent to act as the trading post and post office, renaming the settlement "Dora" for a short time after his Murdock's 23-year-old daughter. Then by popular demand, it became "Theodore" in honor of President Theodore Roosevelt.

Alva Murdock’s father, Joseph R. Murdock succeeded Abram Hatch and William Smart as the President of the Wasatch Stake centered in Heber. On November 30, 1905, President Murdock organized the first branch of the LDS Church on the Uintah Indian Reservation which he called the Duchesne Branch of the Wasatch Stake consisting of the LDS people living in and near Theodore at the junction of Strawberry Creek and the Duchesne River.

The Dry Gulch Irrigation Co. was organized in Roosevelt on December 5, 1905 with Ephraim Lambert the president. The task of bringing water to the homesteads was formidable. The first step was to build diversion dams in the natural waterways. Most of these structures initially were often simple and built with readily available materials like logs, rocks, sage brush, and earth. Due to their poor design and materials, the dams were often washed out by floods and required constant maintenance or rebuilding. Engineers used basic surveying tools, such as transits and leveling instruments, to determine the correct slope and elevation to ensure gravity would carry the water to the intended fields. Construction was labor-intensive. Large crews of men used picks, shovels, and horse-drawn slip scrapers, which were metal buckets attached to a pair of handles and pulled by a team of horses or mules. The operator would use the handles to scoop up dirt and then tip the bucket to deposit it, creating the channel. Crews had to dig through rock, navigate around hills, and build flumes—wooden troughs or elevated channels—to carry water across ravines or gullies. It was a slow and painstaking process... Each homestead had a headgate at their property, a simple wooden or metal gate used to open and close the flow of water into their fields. Settlers were responsible for digging the channels on their own property. The water master would release water to different homesteads on a schedule, with each user receiving a specific amount of water for a set period.

Working on this project occupied much of young Robert Lambert’s time between 1906 and 1908 before his father’s family moved to Roosevelt from Heber.

[221] Wikipedia article on Duchesne.

The first winter in the Basin was harsh, and many of the settlers returned home after staking out their claims and gathering logs for future use. The few who remained lived in tents or other temporary shelters.

Clarence Lambert wrote that by January, a saloon had been built in Roosevelt by Heber Campbell.[222] The first meals were served by Charles and Florence Shurtleff[223] who had moved into a tent on the northeast corner of Main Street. That year a mercantile store was built called the "Merc" with Joseph Hardy of Vernal the proprietor. Clarence wrote further, "the first post office was in a boarded up tent beside the Merc and later moved to the store. Mrs. Garnet Holmes was the first postmistress." The mail was delivered daily except Sundays from Ft. Duchesne.

When spring came, the high water of the Duchesne River overflowed its banks, flooding many of the settlements. Many homesteaders' dreams died after the first winter, and they sold their claims off for next to nothing. It is difficult to find written histories of individual Utes, who also suffered through the homesteading process, but there is no doubt that they were also greatly affected.

That spring at a Bear Dance on the Ute Reservation near Bridgeland,[224] a Ute by the name of Red Cap rallied a dissatisfied group of braves to leave the Basin and join up with the Sioux. Around 400 Utes gathered with their horses, wagons, and supplies and moved toward South Dakota. The alarmed Governor of Wyoming convinced the federal government to send troops against them. Seeing their condition, the troops escorted the rebellious Utes to the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation, where they found that the Sioux were not only unwilling to enter into an alliance, but they had no hunting lands to share, having had been defeated at Wounded Knee in 1890. They were in desperate poverty and too poor to offer the Utes hospitality. Some of the Utes worked for the railroads and others found jobs in Rapid City, but in 1908 the dispirited Utes returned to Utah under their own will under the escort of the Second Cavalry of the United States Army.[225] This was the end of the

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[222] James Heber Cambell was a freighter from Vernal, a brother to Joseph Campbell, whose two wives drowned in the Green River at White River as mentioned in Chapter Three.

[223] Charles Shurtleff was from Millcreek, Utah, the son of Vincent Shurtleff, one of the pioneers of 1847, the last child of the fourth of his father's six wives. He was a house carpenter at Fort Bridger, Wyoming when he married his wife Florence, who had been raised in Montpelier, Idaho. They were living in Vernal when the reservation was opened for homesteading.

[224] Bridgeland (not to be confused with Bridger Land) is about half-way between Duchesne and Myton, so named after a bridge that was built there cross the Duchesne River that year. There were Ute allotments in that area, mixed checkerboard fashion among the claims of white settlers.

[225] Clifford Duncan, A History of Utah's American Indians, Chapter 5, "The Northern Utes of Utah," pp.167–224.

resistance, and by 1912 the U.S. Army had abandoned Fort Duchesne, leaving the Utes under civil authority.[226]

Dan Lambert's daughter Lyla May wrote about her own experience that spring.

> Bert (Smith, her fiancé) stayed in Salt Lake until the spring of 1906, when he went to the reservation with Art to get the house built at Indian Bench. They had to go to the mountains for logs and timber to build with. Bert got round logs cut the right length for one large room. It took two or three days for each trip and so much time was taken up. He knew it wouldn't be ready to move into, so he rode horseback to Kamas to see if a postponement of our marriage would be alright. One reason for some consideration was that my cousin, Celeste, and her fiancé were going to go with us to be married in the Salt Lake Temple, so we had to talk with them. We finally set December 19, 1906, as our wedding date. So, Bert went back to work more on the house but still didn't have the roof on. By then it was wintertime, and it was too hard to get to the sawmill, so Bert got back to Kamas on December 15th.[227]

Ephraim Lambert was released as bishop in Woodland in May 1906 and was succeeded by Dolph White, the husband of Ephraim's half-sister Ann Mariah Lambert.

According to Clarence, the first meals served by the Shurtleffs were in a tent on the northeast corner of Main Street in Roosevelt, where they later built a two-room log house that evolved into a hotel which became a gathering place to have coffee and sandwiches after dances and other gatherings. A long building for a mercantile store was built called the "co-op," where the first meeting of the Dry Gulch irrigation company was held on May 16th.

According to the *Wasatch Wave*, Joseph Lambert escorted a party of seven home seekers from Heber and Midway scheduled to leave May 28, 1906, bound for Theodore to begin labor on a canal to be taken out of the Duchesne River about four miles below the town to conduct water onto the bench east of Blue Bench. Joseph's son Robert may have been with him.

At stake conference in Vernal on June 2, 1906, the Uintah Stake boundaries were extended to include all of the former Ute reservation in both Uintah and Wasatch Counties. William H. Smart of Heber was chosen to preside over the new stake and moved his family to

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[226] Short History p. 24.

[227] There follows another page of the story worth reading that describes her disappointment with the shack and the difficulty of getting started. *FamilySearch* memories KWCD-KLY.

Vernal. Ephraim Lambert, recently released as bishop in Woodland, was chosen to be on the stake high council.

On June 7, 1906, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior directed the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to select tracts of land in the Uintah Reservation to be reserved for townsites. Duchesne (then Theodore), Myton, and Randlett were recommended and then approved a month later by President Theodore Roosevelt.[228] Myton is situated at the old crossing of the Duchesne River, about two miles below the river's junction with Lake Fork and 11 miles southwest of Roosevelt. They called it Myton in honor of a former Indian agent and set up the Indian Reclamation offices there, which gave added prestige to the town.

Ephraim Lambert formally relinquished his claim south of Randlett on June 28, 1906. Not having drawn a lottery number, he had not been able to lay claim to prime land and was now looking to buy something better. The best land had been taken by people with lottery numbers, many of whom were opportunists looking to sell their claims to latecomers. Ephraim did find more promising land, the 80 acres claimed by a young man named Oliver "Ole" Olson,[229] one of the seven young men who had come during the lottery rush from Spanish Fork with Theo Phillips and began to construct the family's house south of Roosevelt.

His son Clarence described it as a nice, sturdy log home with four rooms, a big central hall, bathroom and pantry, much nicer and larger than the house of their neighbor Theo Phillips. There was a barn to build, corrals, grainery, and fencing to install, irrigation ditches and canals to dig, and trees and sage brush to clear from the land. For recreation (besides hunting), they rounded up wild horses to break or sell. The homestead became known locally as Lambert Grove.

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[228] Wikipedia: Duchesne.

[229] Ole Olson was 25 years old. He had immigrated from Iceland to Spanish Fork with his family when he was four. His father had died in 1896 and his mother in 1900, leaving him a 17 year old orphan, who made his living shearing sheep. The homestead of Floyd Carter directly east of him sold for $3,500, so that is probably about what Ole gained from selling his property to Ephraim, a small fortune for him. On October 15, 1907, young Oliver "Ole" Olson paid cash for his homestead in the south west quarter of Section 27 about a mile south of Roosevelt. He had received the money from Ephraim Lambert, who bought out his interest. Sadly, Ole died March 31, 1908 in Spanish Fork.

Florence Shurtleff

The first Independence Day celebration in Roosevelt was held at Lambert Grove, one mile south of town. Thirty-year old Florence Shurtleff was crowned Queen during the program. Jigs and square dances were included. Lunch was sold by Mrs. Shurtleff and her sister, Ruth Strang. The required groceries were hauled in from Vernal.[230]

The *Wasatch Wave* in Heber reported on the Duchesne Irrigation Co.'s proposed canal from the Duchesne River about three miles below Theodore to a little mesa called the Lake Fork Bench. "The little mesa is colonized mostly by settlers from the Provo Valley (Heber)." They had organized a Sunday school and planted crops. Nine settlers were mentioned including Joseph H. Lambert.[231] Lake Fork Bench included Ioka, where Dan Lambert settled,[232] and also Upalco. The others mentioned actually settled in Theodore (later Duchesne).

Theo Phillips married his girlfriend Alta in Springville, and they took their honeymoon in July 1906 back to the Basin accompanied by two male friends. He wrote:

> By this time the town of Roosevelt had its store, saloon and some tent buildings.[233] On July 24th they wanted to have a dance, (but they had) no coal oil. I had...some, so we came to the ranch and got (it) and danced most of the night. We were afraid to go home in the dark for fear of getting lost or tipping over (no road)—some excuse for staying all night. To dance we had to move counters and merchandise in the store back to one corner and had enough room for two or three sets for square dances and sat on sacks of flour. Mandolin and guitar was the music.

That dance was held to celebrate the completion of the mercantile. C. J. Johnson opened up a business nearby for the Consolidated Wagon and Machine Company.

Since this was just a honeymoon trip, Theo, Alta, and his friend Bill returned to Springville three days after the dance, this time returning via Indian Canyon. There was no road, only a trail, and they had a hard time getting out. They ended up unhitching the horses, getting the people out, and then lowering the wagon with chains. It took them three days just to get to Thistle.

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[230] Dillman p. 395.
[231] Joseph Lambert was still functioning as a home missionary in Heber, so he must have just been visiting, or they confused him with his brother Dan, who did have a claim there.
[232] Dan's property is the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 10, Township 3S, Range 9W.
[233] The Post Office, a boarded-up tent, stood on the north side of the Roosevelt Mercantile Company Store. The postmistress was Mrs. J. G. Holmes.

The Duchesne Branch in Theodore was combined with the Roosevelt Branch to constitute the Duchesne Ward on September 3, 1906, and Ephraim Lambert was made bishop.[234] The two towns were 28 miles apart and at that time there would have been no motorized vehicles in the Basin, so Ephraim probably traveled by horse and buggy to attend meetings in Duchesne, a trip of about six to eight hours not counting rest stops on the dirt road, doable with a single horse, whose daily range was about 20-30 miles.

By the fall of 1906, more of the Uintah Basin than could be farmed had been claimed in the land rush. The abandonment rate was very high in the next few years. Many homesteaders left before they had title.[235] Others sold their claims to latecomers if they could.

After Dan and May Young Lambert's last child, Golden Young Lambert, was born in Kamas on October 9, 1906, they moved their family to the homestead that Dan had claimed in Ioka, about seven miles west of Roosevelt. May wrote that it was a little board house and most uncomfortable. Dan served as the second postmaster there, working out of his house.[236] Water was a problem in Ioka, and most culinary water had to be hauled in barrels from springs on the north side of the valley until 1910, when the Dry Fork Company joined the Lake Fork Irrigation Company and relieved the shortage.

After serving as bishop in Woodland only three or four months, Dolph White was called on a mission to the Indians on the reservation. He and his son Frank had scouted out 160 acres of land near present Tabiona, where they built a small one room house from one-inch lumber hauled from the Lambert's sawmill.

Others who came from Woodland that fall were Dolph's brothers Bert and William White and Robert Moroni Michie, who had married Elena Lambert. Bert's son Clarence, who was only 2 ½ at the time later wrote,

> Dad and I lived in a tent for the rest of the summer. He set corner posts, grubbed sagebrush and greasewood until cold weather set in, and snow started in October. Uncle Dolph did the same. Then we headed back over the mountain to Woodland and Cottonwood (where Bert lived). I was the only white child to live in the valley. All the rest were Indians.

The first fall only one-room cabins were erected in Tabiona, which were enlarged or new ones built within a year. Bert White's family arrived in the fall. Clarence White continued,

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[234] Ephraim Lambert was ordained bishop by the President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles Francis M. Lyman.
[235] Casey McClellan Geslison, To Hold the World Together: A Uinta Basin Homesteading History, 1905-1930. https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/studentpub_uht/183
[236] Dillman p. 264.

> The following spring of 1906, Dad and Uncle Dolph headed back to the homesteads as soon as snow let them. Dad took my mother, me and baby sister with him. She was born on August 12, 1905, while we were in Vernal. We lived in a tent while Dad built a log cabin which had one room with a door and one window on the south and one window on the east with a dirt sod roof and the cracks plastered with mud. Dad built a shed for horses and the jersey cow and a small coop for a few chickens. Pinion pine wood was close and plentiful. Dad made trips and brought in winter supplies and bailed hay to feed the horses and cows. Uncle Dolph went to Woodland for the winter. We wintered okay. Dad spent the winter cutting cedar posts to make a fence and wood to keep warm. We were the only family in the valley that winter. The Indians all left for the lower valleys.

Clarence's sister, Lillian added, "This was a hard land to settle, Dad said. It took him thirty years to conquer the land."

Lillian's mother, Pearl White, was a healthy, strong, and very beautiful young woman, the mother of two children. Their first home was a one-room cabin with a dirt floor, a dirt roof, and no door. At night a quilt was hung at the door to keep the draft from the children; many nights Pearl had to spend alone with the children, while Bert was out after supplies or camping in the woods logging.[237] In his teens Clarence left the homestead and rode his bicycle over the dirt wagon roads up over Wolf Creek pass and on into Salt Lake City, where he enrolled in the LDS business college and found employment with a butcher shop.

Robert Moroni Michie's much younger brother William and his wife Eliza with three children also came from Woodland and settled at Farm Creek two miles east of Hanna, three miles north of Tabiona. They brought the first milk cow to Farm Creek. The Whites had twins named Ruth and Ruby on November 6, 1906. During the winters, school was held at their home until a church house was completed about 1910, which also served as a school room.

According to the *Wasatch Wave*,[238]

> The canal from the (Duchesne) river about five miles below Theodore is being pushed toward completion under the able management of Ephraim Lambert. It is five miles long with three miles of laterals covering 3,000 acres of what is conceded to be the best land on the reservation. It is six feet wide on the bottom, ten feet on the top and three feet deep.

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[237] Dillman p. 444.
[238] *Wasatch Wave*, September 10, 1906.

The newspaper quoted Ephraim Lambert:

> Many of the settlers have fairly good homes completed and are preparing to spend the winter there as comfortably as possible so as to be there ready to commence work as soon as spring opens… Good progress was made on the canal for the Duchesne Irrigation, which was due to be completed that fall to cover 2,500 acres of land.

Ephraim's older brother Joseph Lambert was still in Heber trying to organize the flow of immigrants.

On November 23, 1906, a family traveling from Iron County to a homestead rolled their wagon full of supplies on a dugway about 15 miles above Theodore, injuring several people. They were rescued and driven down Daniels Canyon to Heber, a distance of about 40 miles to Joseph Lambert's house, where they arrived at 4 a.m. and received medical treatment. Joseph was probably acting in his role as head of the Wasatch Development Company.

Around the end of 1906, Dan's son Delmar Lambert settled four miles southwest of Roosevelt.[239]

The delayed marriage of Lyla and Bert Smith took place on December 19th in Salt Lake City, a double wedding with Lyla's cousin, Celeste Pack. They returned to Kamas on the 21st, and Dan and May Lambert held a party for them. Lyla May Lambert wrote a detailed explanation of the difficulties in winter travel to their homestead beginning in December 1906, when Bert and Art came back from the reservation.[240] It was late and snowing in the mountains, and they couldn't bring the wagons any further than Stockmore,[241] a little settlement of ten or twelve families on the Duchesne River, so they borrowed a sleigh to come over the mountain.[242] There are two small valleys on the upper Duchesne River which are sometimes spoken of as North Hanna and South Hanna. Stockmore was where the river was forded. Before the homestead rush, there were several families living there including Willliam P. Hanna and there was a bridge over the north fork of the Duchesne.

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[239] Derived from his patent of 160 acres five years later.
[240] *FamilySearch* memories, KWCD-KLY.
[241] Stockmore was at the junction of the Duchesne River and its West Fork. The community was allegedly planned for development during the land rush of 1905. A pair of swindlers, Mr. Stockman and Mr. Moore, "founded" the town and advertised lots for sale by displaying gold nuggets that came from "Stockmore." They fled when federal marshals entered the scene. Today the U.S. Forest Station is on the site which is not far from Hanna. https://onlineutah.us/stockmorehistory.shtml
[242] They were living in Kamas when their first child was born February 20, 1908, so they were not wintering in their homestead cabin until their next child was born in January 1910 in Roosevelt.

When LDS Church President Joseph F. Smith recommended that the new settlers gather together into towns, Stake President Smart explored the Basin in his white-topped buggy seeking out and comparing possible townsites. He recommended Ouray as a possible temple city. He took an active role in public affairs by organizing and financing needed businesses and civic enterprises.[243] He brought the first telephones to the basin, flour mill, electric power plant, Vernal Water Works, and the Vernal amusement hall. The eventual LDS chapel and Amusement Hall in Roosevelt was built on the property of Franklin Orser, who had also moved there from Vernal.

***1916** - First LDS Church building sometimes called the Amusement Hall. C.C. Larsen gave $225 for its construction and his older sons all freely labored to build it.*

Theo and Alta Phillips returned to their homestead with seed wheat and oats and tools by sleigh via Provo Canyon, Charleston and Daniels Canyon, reaching his homestead January 26th. Theo wrote that he had to make the trip to satisfy his homestead claim which required him to live in the cabin at some point during any six months, and he barely made it one day before his six months was up. He unloaded his supplies and returned home on the 28th.[244]

In 1907 Mr. and Mrs. Harmston donated a two acre tract of land on which a schoolhouse was erected in Roosevelt. Fifteen students were enrolled in the first year.

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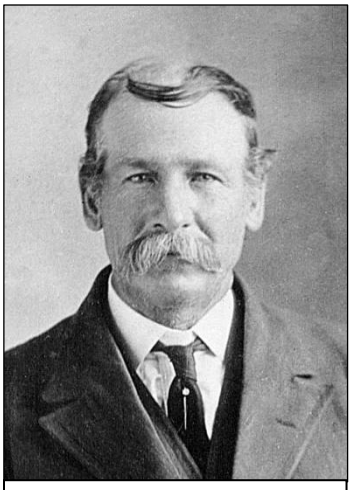
[243] Kristen Smart Rogers, William Henry Smart: Uinta Basin Pioneer Leader, Utah Historical quarterly, vo. 45, Number 1, 1977.

[244] I looked up the residency threshold: Applicants had to live on the land for five years continuously. The homestead must be their primary residence. Title could be acquired after only six months of residency if the claimant paid the government $1.25 per acre. Veterans could deduct their service time from the five-year residency. "Improvement" was understood as building a dwelling at least 12 x 14 feet and cultivating the land. Other improvements could be fencing, digging wells, or canals. These requirements were determined at "proving up" time.

In the spring of 1907, Dolph and Ann Maria Lambert White sold their home in Woodland and bought a wagonload of lumber to take to Tabiona.[245] They traveled east from Woodland via Wolf Creek Summit to the Uintah Reservation, driving by wagon up to Wilkins' camp on the South Fork of the Provo River headed for the 160 acres that Dolph and his son Frank had claimed, where they built a new house with a "hard dug basement and a bowery connecting the two houses. He later donated the rest of the lumber to build a church there. The children went to school at Bert White's further up the river, as he had just completed a new house. Dolph and Ann's daughter Pearl much later wrote that it was a big mistake for them to go. They were well-to-do in Woodland, but poor in Duchesne.

Bert White store ca. 1918

It appears that nearly all the people migrating to the Basin from Woodland used the Wolf Creek route and therefore settled in or near Tabiona or Hanna, which were over 50 miles west of Roosevelt and about 1,280 feet higher in altitude.[246] Robert Moroni Michie was one of them, leaving on April 2nd with his daughter Myrtle, who turned nine the next month, and 14 year old Preal on a sleigh laden with baled hay, sacks of grain, and a few cooking utensils dishes, articles, of clothing, bedding, and groceries. It was a three day trip. After crossing the pass, they put wheels on the sled to convert it to a wagon and went on to the basin to break up sagebrush ground and plant wheat where he had filed a claim in 1905. They too went through Stockmore and traveled another day down the Duchesne River Valley before reaching their homestead in Tabby, the white people's pronunciation of the Ute chief who had lived there.[247] The girls piled the brush into piles and burned them. In their log cabin the girls slept in a bunk, and Robert slept on the floor.


Robert Moroni Michie

[245] Tabiona was originally called Tabby after the Ute chief, but was later changed to Tabiona, including the name of Tabby's daughter Ona.
[246] Roosevelt is nearly a mile high (5,250 feet), and Tabiona is 6,526 feet.
[247] The name was changed in 1911 when the Tabiona Ward was created.

In the fall, Elena and the smaller children came for a visit, and the next spring Robert Moroni moved the whole family out. Sunday school was held in houses up and down the river before a church house was built. Their oldest daughter Eugenia was away from home working,[248] and Genevieve was attending high school at Heber, working to pay her way. Myrtle married George Wilcken in November 1908, and they moved to Hanna several miles up the river from Tabby. Eugenia joined them and then couldn't get back to Woodland due to weather. She had to stay until spring.

After Theo Phillips' wife had their first child, they loaded up and returned to the homestead together on April 19th by way of Spanish Fork Canyon and on through Nine Mile and back to Roosevelt through Myton. He wrote,

> I started to plow... Every day I would have to go after water. Went after work usually about 1 ½ miles, would water horses, fill the barrels and by measuring every drop would have enough for the horses and myself for mornings and noons. I used a walking plow and plowed twenty acres, planted twelve acres of wheat. Had a good crop, also planted eight acres of oats and alfalfa. The way of irrigating was very different from the way we did at home. We had to mark the ground after it was planted then water the crops up. We had to be careful not to flood the ground or it would bake, and crops would not come up. Finished plowing May 14. During this time, I had done some ditch work so some of us could be watering. I leveled the ground, marked it and started watering June 2nd, first water on my place, and finished June 7th. About July 10th grain about a foot high when the grasshoppers started on south side and had about two rods pretty well eaten.

The same month, Ephraim Marett's wife Rebecca Lambert left Vernal with their eight children and joined him at Upalco.

The last week of April 1907, the newlyweds Bert and Lyla May Lambert Smith set out from Kamas via Heber for their new home in Indian Bench. Lyla wrote:

> The roads were such that we had to drive slow and had quite a large load so it took us a week to go where one can now go in 4 or 5 hours... We arrived at our cabin just at dusk and while I was very tired of riding, I was not happy with what I found for a home. It was an 8 x 10 foot board cabin with dirt floor and cracks from ½ to 1 ½ inches wide. I hate to say it, but it was very littered with a plow, outdoor implements, a bale of hay, plenty of mice, and a stove about 20 inches long by 14 inches wide with two lids and an oven large enough only for a pie plate. After cleaning the room up, we put in the things that we brought from Kamas. The folks

[248] Eugenia was working as a maid in a boarding house cooking, washing dishes and laundry.

> had given us a table and two or three chairs, one small rocker, a bin the folks gave me to pack fruit in, and other things that were in my trunk. We used boxes for cupboards and wash stand and we got along first rate. There was a stack of papers and magazines there, and I papered the walls with them. We also took the springs and mattress for the bed, so we made a frame to hold them, so slept comfortably... Bert and I decided to go to a dance at Roosevelt eight miles away. We both rode one of our big work horses down, danced till intermission then went back home at two a.m., tired but not sorry.[249]

The main street in Theodore, which formerly was a narrow lane leading around trees through sage brush and down gulleys, was made into a broad and well graded boulevard.[250] There were two cut-offs on the Duchesne River with some diking to assure the people on the townsite of dry walks during high water.

On May 11, 1907, a merchant named Christian Cyrus Larsen arrived at Indian Bench with 18 wagons via Nine Mile Canyon. He had sold his house and general store in Mayfield and brought seven children, his wife, all their possessions and his inventory. They camped on Indian Bench for three days waiting for all the wagons to arrive and then secured a one room adobe house on the main street of Roosevelt to use as his store. The family lived out of tents while he and his sons collected timber and sandstone. He bought a building and land owned by the Consolidated Wagon and Machine Company for the site of his permanent store.

On July 7, 1907, a meeting was held in Roosevelt at the one room school house with Bishop Ephraim Lambert presiding. His Duchesne Ward at that time included all the Saints in Theodore, in Roosevelt, and all the rest of the Duchesne County that was open for white settlement. The meeting was to organize the first Sunday school in Roosevelt.[251] When the Duchesne Ward was divided four weeks later, the Theodore Branch became a ward with Alma Moroni Murdock as Bishop. The former east part of the ward including Roosevelt was temporarily continued as the Duchesne Ward and Ephraim Lambert continued there as bishop.

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[249] The first dance hall, called the Brown Palace, was built in Roosevelt about 1906 or 1907 according to Clarence Lambert.
[250] *Wasatch Wave*, May 3, 1907.
[251] Dillman, p. 116.

In late 1907 Dan Lambert bought a relinquished[252] homestead next to oldest son Delmar in Lake Fork about four miles southwest of Roosevelt, after which he, Del, and Bert Smith went home to Kamas for the winter.

That fall, the settlers in Lake Fork felt an urgent need for a school, so they built a frame house 20'x20' from rough lumber with Ephraim Marett in charge of the work. The next year another post office was set up three miles east of the Lake Fork Post Office on Dan Lambert's homestead, which was named Ioka. There Dan and May Lambert served as postmaster and postmistress. Ioka became a farming and stock raising section. Several people had range cattle, all had dairy cows, and many raised chickens on a large scale.[253]

Growing rapidly, the Duchesne Ward (in Roosevelt) was divided on September 10, 1907, into three divisions: Roosevelt, Indian Bench, and Hayden branches, over all of which Bishop Ephraim Lambert of the Duchesne Ward had jurisdiction.

That day the *Vernal Express* wrote: "Nearly all the lots in the original townsite of Roosevelt have been sold..., most bought by those who expect to engage in business or who wish to move to town for school activities."

Theo Phillips wrote that in the winter of 1907 they ate cottontail rabbits for meat but had raised a good crop of oats, which they traded with Ephraim Lambert for a quarter of beef. All the people in and around Roosevelt hauled their culinary water in barrels from Bert Henry's spring southwest of town.[254]

The C.C. Larsen store in general merchandise was built in 1907 on the northwest corner of Main Street and First North and opened around Christmas time. It was two stories high with 22 rooms. The family lived in the south side and the mercantile was on the north. The center was empty for about two years, and then the mercantile was moved into the center part, and Larsens rented the north side for an eating place.[255] Throughout the years the building served as a store, hotel, and bottling works. Larsen built the first flour mill, and his wife Clara ran the first millinery store. The Shurtliff Hotel began diagonally across the intersection of Main Steet and First North with a two-room shack, and there was a saloon across the road and down a block. A log house school was soon built.

Robert Lambert wrote that he spent much time in the Basin doing farm and canal work during the two years before his family moved to Roosevelt from Heber. His future wife

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[252] A relinquishment means that Dan bought out a would-be homesteader, a necessary move since Dan had already homesteaded in Summit County.
[253] Dillman p. 268.
[254] Dillman p. 348.
[255] *FamilySearch* Memories, Eternal Links—Section 2 part 3, Marriage and Family KW8Q-B6N.

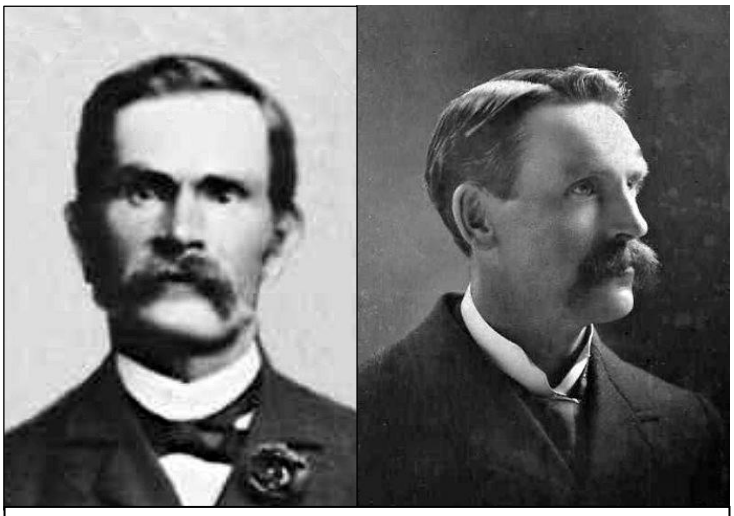
Winnie was more specific, writing that in 1908, Robert received a contract to build the Midview Ditch to carry water from the Whiterocks River to the Ouray Valley.[256] The work consisted mostly of canal building and land clearing. Unfortunately, due to lack of funding the project was stopped short of completion.

In 1908, Bishop Murdock took down the circus tent in Theodore and in its place built the first store called the "Pioneer Supply," a barber shop, and a post office,[257] which was moved into the mercantile with Henry J. Harding as postmaster.

That year a post office opened in Cuneal on Indian Bench, and the town was renamed Bennett in honor of a benefactor and early settler [258] with Mrs. Nancy Anderson as postmistress.

Sarah Ann Smith, who had previously run a photo studio in Vernal, opened a photo studio on Main Street in Roosevelt. She also opened a bakery, flower shop, started the first ice cream parlor, and founded a laundry. A Swede named Gus Frederickson was the first blacksmith.[259]

When the town of Roosevelt became a ward by itself in August, its name was appropriately changed from Duchesne Ward to Roosevelt Ward. Ephraim Lambert was released, and his brother Dan Lambert became its first bishop with Owen Bennion as first counselor.[260] Dan moved from Ioka to Roosevelt. Construction for a large church hall was started by the



Ephraim and Dan Lambert

[256] Midview ditch is about 45 miles downstream from Tabiona, and it would have been about 34 miles long, running through or by Ft. Duchesne.
[257] Jensen p. 58.
[258] John Brigham Bennett was born in England and immigrated to Utah with his family in 1862. After living near Bear Lake, then in Arizona, he homesteaded in 1906 in Cuneal, where he donated land for the Bennett Ward house and helped in securing the mail route.
[259] Gustave Fredrickson immigrated in 1892 and moved to Vernal in 1897, where he met his wife and joined the Mormon Church. When the Basin opened for homesteading, he settled his wife east of Roosevelt on the homestead and continued blacksmithing in Vernal for four more years before settling in Roosevelt himself.
[260] Dillman p. 116.

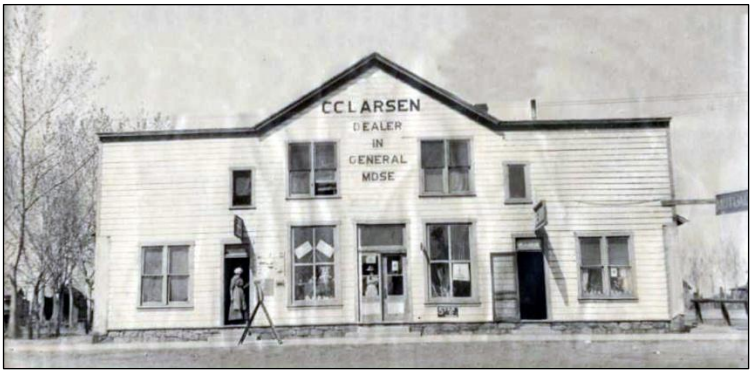
Roosevelt Ward and Uintah Stake.[261] There would soon be three Lambert brothers living in the new Roosevelt Ward.

The Roosevelt post office moved from a tent to a one-room, black, tar paper covered building on the corner north of the mercantile, and May Lambert became postmistress. The place was so small that one had to enter and shut the door before one could open a box.[262]

The citizens throughout the reservation country held a convention in November 1908 to nominate candidates for Wasatch County offices, feeling that they were being shorted on services. Ephraim Lambert was named the Republican candidate to run against his younger brother Dan the Democratic candidate for the Dry Gulch region which included Roosevelt. I do not know who won.

When the Joseph Lambert family finally arrived in Roosevelt on November 1, 1908, Bishop Dan Lambert promptly asked Alice to be president of the Relief Society. She wrote, "I had a lot of sewing for the dead[263] and lots of walking to do, but I am glad that I could be of some help in this new county."

Young Robert Lambert wrote that he worked in the store of C. C. Larson during that first winter after his family arrived. The town was growing rapidly. In 1909 the meat market became Pat Markey's barber shop and Ed Harmston built a two story drug store, which Herb Isham later took over.[264]



The federal government withdrew another 56,000 acres from the reservation in 1909 for the Strawberry Valley Reclamation project, throwing the remaining reservation land open for public sale.[265] This was not all negative for the Utes, at least in the short term. They

[261] The first service was a sacrament meeting held April 30, 1911.
[262]Dillman p. 361.
[263] The Relief Society sewed new temple garments and also served as morticians, washing and clothing the corpses.
[264] Isham moved to Roosevelt from Vernal sometime after his first child was born in Vernal in June 1912.
[265] David Orson Mackay took advantage of this, as we shall see later.

received a settlement that year of more than $3,500,000.[266] But sales of individual allotments further reduced Northern Ute holdings.[267]

The *Wasatch Wave* reported in March 1909 that Joseph Lambert had broken his leg three weeks earlier chasing cattle but was getting along alright with crutches. Alice cared for the fracture successfully as there was no doctor yet in Roosevelt.[268]

Bishop Dan Lambert's wife May wrote,

> Dan's time was entirely taken up with the ward work. The next summer I went up on the Ioka ranch with the four little ones to hold it until Del could enter it. With little or no water and the mosquitoes so thick and very little to live on I had a very lonely, hard time.

Joseph and Alice's daughter Gladys was baptized on July 29, 1909, and was confirmed by her uncle Dan.

Myrtle Michie (Elena's daughter) wrote that the winter of 1909-10 was a hard one. Snow was three feet deep on the level and drifts were 5-10 feet, the worst in 30 years.

The Duchesne Stake was organized out of the Wasatch Stake on September 10, 1910, and Ephraim Lambert was named first counselor in the stake presidency.[269]

Electric lights were installed in Theodore in 1910 but for some unknown reason they were not turned on until 1914. By 1910, the citizens had decided to change the town's name to "Duchesne," but the post office kept the name "Theodore" until the town's petition to change the name was acknowledged on May 5, 1911.

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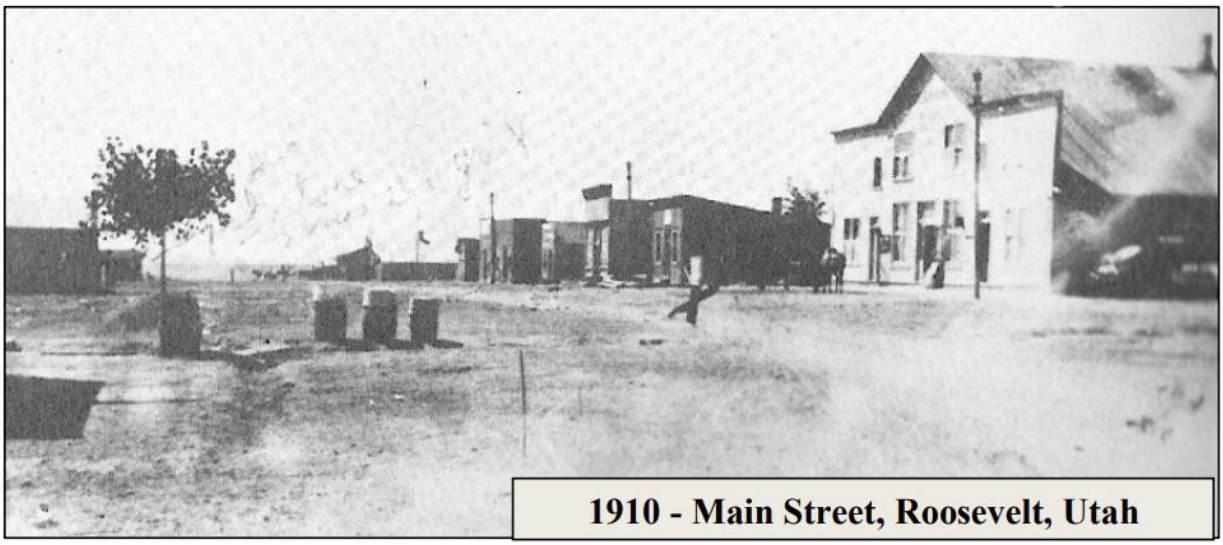
[266] In a 1962 comprehensive claims settlement, the Ute people were awarded nearly $47,700,000, of which the Northern Ute tribe received $30,500,000.
https://www.uen.org/utah_history_encyclopedia/n/NATIVE_AMERICANS.shtml

[267] Native people leased their lands to homestead hopefuls in high numbers. The Utes' share of reservation shrank from nearly four million acres in 1882 to a jointly owned 250,000-acre grazing reserve and 1,283 individual allotments totaling 103,265 acres by 1909.

[268] There was briefly a doctor in Duchesne named Bjornson, who moved to Myton, the government town during the early settlement, but none in Roosevelt at that time. However, it was not long before several doctors arrived.

[269] He served as first counselor until 1916. After that he served as patriarch in the Roosevelt Stake for 24 years until his death in December 1939.



1910 - Main Street, Roosevelt, Utah

According to the U.S. census there were 212 families in Roosevelt in April 1910. The enumerator of the census was none other than young Robert Lambert himself.[270] Not surprisingly, the Joseph Lambert household appeared on the very first page, the 11th family to be counted, and they were living on their farm[271] next to Ephraim's about two miles south of Roosevelt, not in the town itself, which at that time consisted mainly of a few business and community buildings on a single street. Joseph was 53 and Alice was 44. Robert was 23 years old and single. The other six children were aged one through 17. Looking at the people listed on the same pages of the census gives a rough idea of where the farm was situated as well as general conditions of the time and place. The first house in the census was occupied by John H. O'Connell, a single 49-year-old from Iowa. The second belonged to Theo Phillips, whom we have been quoting. He was now 30 years old, living with his wife Alta and two toddlers. Etienne Lazarus Patry owned the fifth farm. His 23 year old daughter Agnes would marry Ephraim's son Darrell nine months later. Joseph Lambert's nearest neighbor was his brother Ephraim, who was also living on a farm, which he owned free of a mortgage. He and Agnes were living with their 24 year old son Darrell, the twins Clyde and Clarence, aged 21, Glen, 17, Ida, 15, Muriel 11, and Frank, five. When Theo Phillips filed to prove his claim, he listed Joseph Lambert as one of his three witnesses.[272]

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[270] Robert would have applied for the job with a regional supervisor and passed a "test schedule," filling out a hypothetical form to show his ability. Enumerators were paid per family listed and were expected to work eight hours per day except for Sundays.

[271] This census specifically asked whether the family lived on a farm or in town. It also asked whether the farm was owned and whether mortgaged. He owned the farm but had a mortgage.

[272] *Duchesne Record* June 10,1910.

One of the questions in the census kept track of who had attended school that year. Three of Ephraim's children--Muriel, Ida and Glen, aged 11-17, and two of Joseph's--nine year old Gladys and 11 year old Herald had attended since fall. Two weeks before the census, the *Wasatch Wave* had listed Eleanor Marie Lambert, the 15 year old daughter of Dan and May Lambert, as one of seven graduating students in Roosevelt. Three of Dan's other children were also in school.

Eleanor Lambert

In the next farm lived the family of LeRoy and Sarah Goodrich with three children under the age of three, who had moved there from Vernal.

A cursory glance at the census would suggest that the homes were close together, however they were quite widely separated. Years later, a granddaughter[273] of Calvin Bingham, who also lived close by, wrote that their nearest neighbor was a mile away, although this might be an exaggeration, as the families that I have mentioned all lived one or two miles SSE of the center of Roosevelt. She vividly described some of the hardships.

> The year was 1906, and the Uintah Reservation was opened for homesteading. Grandfather's restlessness and pioneer spirit persuaded him to make one last long move. So, he secured a homestead southeast of Roosevelt. Grandmother writes in her story that this was one of the saddest chapters in her life. Their nearest neighbor lived a mile away. It was like a barren desert. Water had to be hauled from a spring which was half mile away. It was very lonely in the day time. The wolves and coyotes howled at night which made it very frightening. Aunt Ethel writes in her history that they were so afraid of the Indians that at night they piled furniture against the door.

All of the nearby families except Ephraim and Joseph Lambert themselves "proved up" or sold their claims around 1910 or 1911, but by 1920 over half had died or moved back to their original home.[274] Many commented on the misery and hardship. Except for one mention of Ephraim by Theo Phillips, none of them wrote anything about the Lamberts. Over half of these families were from states other than Utah and several had come from Vernal.

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[273] *FamilySearch* memories, Merle B. Wilkins KW8L-2YR.
[274] Dillman p. 345.

Joseph Lambert's grandson Theron, who was raised in Roosevelt, wrote that about 90% of people in Roosevelt were LDS and 10% were "displaced nondiscriptors (sic)."[275] He continued,

> True to Brigham Young's advice, the graded but totally unpaved streets were aligned with the principal points of the compass. Main Street ran N-S. The Dry Gulch, our largest stream, wandered out of the hills from the northwest, ran along the North edge of town, made a gentle bend to the South and passed along the east side of town. Sidewalks were unpaved except for a total of six blocks in the business section of town and had been carefully delineated by being raised slightly above street level.

In the census, Dan Lambert's family was listed several pages away from his two brothers, listed as household #34. He was living with his wife May and six of their children aged 3-14. It is clear that after they moved from their farm in Ioka, they lived in town, since their near neighbors included businessmen Ed Harmston and Charley Shurtliff.

Sena Lambert's 72nd birthday was celebrated in front of Dan Lambert's home[276] in Roosevelt in September 1910.

On September 15,1910 the Duchesne Stake was divided from the Uintah County Stake in Vernal. William H. Smart, who had presided over the divided stake remained president in the new Duchesne Stake chose Ephraim Lambert as his first counselor.[277]

This photo is said to be on the occasion of Sena's birthday around September 14, 1910 at Dan's house in Roosevelt. The four men in the middle row are flanking Sena are Joseph, Ephraim, and Dan. Almost all persons are identified in *FamilySearch* memories KWCF-4V5.

[275] Robert Lambert's son Theron wrote several pages describing his life in Roosevelt. These are unpublished and in the personal possession of his daughter Linda Lambert Bateman. I will footnote these as "Theron Lambert Notes."

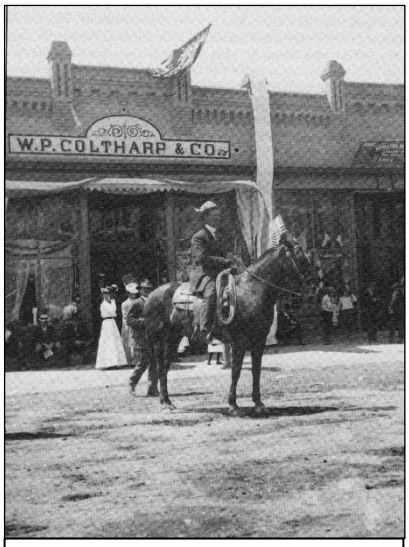
[276] On one of the several versions of this photo in *FamilySearch*, the words "Dan Lambert's home" were written.

[277] Joseph H. Hardy was his second counselor with William H. Gagon was stake clerk. The wards and branches in the new stake were Boneta, Hayden, Roosevelt, Tabiona, and Theodore (Jenson p. 200).

Dan Lambert was nominated to be the Democratic candidate for the 10th district as state representative for Wasatch County but withdrew and lost by default to a Republican named Pope.

Elena Lambert Michie's 13 year old daughter Fern and three year old son Trever came down with typhoid fever in Stockmore in the fall of 1910. Trevor died.

Beginning in September, Robert Lambert had a job in the Coltharp mercantile store in Vernal,[278] and he stayed there the following summer to work on the farm of his uncle, Bill Gibson.



Coltharp Store ca. 1910

Ephraim's son Darrell Lambert married Mary Agnes Patry in Salt Lake City. Their families were neighbors south of Roosevelt.

In February 1911, Ephraim Lambert was appointed deputy county assessor for Duchesne County. His older half-brother Johnnie Lambert had been a long-time deputy state dairy and food commissioner over Summit and Wasatch counties, regulating all the creameries at Wallsburg and Charleston.

May Young Lambert

Dan Lambert's wife May wrote that their land in Ioka was poor, having insufficient water and unsuitable for grazing cattle, and she regarded their move from Kamas to have been a bad move. So, after Dan had spent a great part of his time as bishop and getting the Church started in the surrounding areas, they decided to move back to Kamas. On September 9, 1911, he was released. His successor was Paul S. Hanson, and Joseph Lambert was named first counselor. William F. Wiscombe was second counselor.

In Kamas, Dan and May bought the "old Lambert home" (Adelia had died March 4, 1910) and lived there that winter. But they did not stay long there either. May wrote,

[278] James Edgar Coltharp, who died in 1908 in Vernal, was listed in the 1900 census as "dry goods merchant." His son William Wallace Coltharp was president of the Bank of Vernal and ran a general store in 1910. William's brother Hugh declared himself a merchant in the 1910 census. Ashton Brothers Mercantile Company, formed in 1922 by William Coltharp's sons and grandsons, became a large and significant department store, selling everything from groceries to hardware.

> My health was poor on account of the asthma, so in the spring of 1912, we sold our house and farm to George Christianson and moved to East Mill Creek. Dan was Deputy Sheriff and bailiff in the Third District Court.

Then, on November 11, 1911[279] Robert Lambert's life changed. Bill Gibson's farm work was over for the year, and Robert had gone back to working for Colthorp Men's Clothing store in Vernal, when he met Winnie Mackay at a Gold and Green Ball.

Let me digress in order to introduce the Mackay family.

Winnie Mackay's grandfather John Mackay arrived from England with his parents as a seven-year-old on January 14, 1842, in the same ship as my own 3rd great grandfather, Thomas Bateman, where his father worked on the wharfs in New Orleans until he could afford to continue on to Nauvoo. The family reached the Salt Lake Valley in 1847 in John Taylor's company when John was 13 years old and initially stayed in the old fort. In 1849 the Mackays were one of the first five families to farm the land along the Jordan River and to build log cabins west of it, along with the Bennions, Harkers, and Butterfields. In 1850 at the age of 16, John Mackay panned for gold in California but somehow lost it in transit back to Deseret. He later fought in the Blackhawk War.

John married Isabella Calder in 1855, and they lived in Salt Lake City, where their fourth child David Orson Mackay[280] was born May 8, 1862, at their home on 450 West 2nd South. They kept two houses—one there and one at their farm house in Taylorsville. John Mackay was in the freighting business and raised pure-bred horses, cattle, and sheep. They moved back to "North Jordan"[281] until David was five and then returned to Salt Lake City.

David Mackay's father John spent several years freighting goods to and from the Uintah Basin before the railroad came in 1869. According to the 1870 U.S. census, David was eight years old, living in the Salt Lake City 20th Ward on the corner of C Street and 1st Avenue.

It is said that David was already helping his father in the freight business at the age of 11, driving a four-horse team from the Union Pacific Railroad warehouse at Ogden Junction to various Salt Lake City merchants. When David was 13, his father went into the sheep business with his uncle, and they grazed their sheep on the summit in Wasatch County for a

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[279] Wow, 11-11-11! That appears to be a good omen.
[280] I will refer to him simply as David to distinguish him from David O. McKay, the unrelated LDS prophet and from his son David Orson Mackay Jr., whom I will call Orson, the name by which he was usually known.
[281] The early name for Taylorsville.

while.[282] *This is probably when David became acquainted with John Richie*[283] *for whom he would later work as an adult.*

The Mackays were back in the Salt Lake City 20th Ward in 1880 when David was 18. Although his younger siblings were attending school, David was at home, however he is said to have attended the University of Deseret, which must have been around that time.[284] *In 1881 his family moved permanently from the 20th Ward to their farm in Taylorsville and built a large brick home.*

David and his future brother-in-law, Albert Cahoon, were employed around 1883 by the United States Government to trail and deliver more than 3,000 head of beef cattle from old Mexico to the new Fort Thornburgh in Ashley Valley.

He left for Arizona on his 22nd birthday, May 8, 1884, on a mission to Arizona to help LDS members move there, many of whom were polygamists fleeing the federal agents. He said he was the only "kid" in the outfit—the rest were married men, most of them with families. He rafted their wagons across the Paria River and helped them to cross the Colorado River at high water by taking the wagons apart and rowing them across in a flatboat, using pine poles for oar and swimming their horses. This was not a proselyting mission, and he got caught up with some pretty rowdy fellows. He described these experiences vividly in an oral history he made from his death bed as an 84-year-old in September 1946, recorded on a phonograph record.

David Mackay married Maria Antionette Cahoon in the newly dedicated Logan Temple on December 17, 1885, and they moved into a house that he had built in Taylorsville before their marriage. Maria was born April 11, 1865 in South Cottonwood.[285] *Her mother was Margaret Carruth, the second wife of Andrew Cahoon. Andrew was a son of the famous LDS leader Reynolds Cahoon and had been the bishop of the Cottonwood Ward until he apostatized and was cut off from the Church in 1872. About two years before Maria's wedding to David Mackay, Andrew Cahoon, who was no longer a Mormon, divorced her mother and also one of her aunts to comply with the Edmunds Anti-Polygamy Act of 1882. Maria Antoinette was their sixth child, but the first girl in her now fatherless family and had*

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[282] *FamilySearch* memories, David Orson Mackay History, KWC4-K7S.
[283] Richie, an immigrant from Scotland, was the first rancher in what was then called the Provo Valley. The Richie ranch house was about a mile and a half north of the present Deer Creek dam.
[284] The University of Deseret initially operated in diverse locations after its founding in 1850, but by 1876 it was consolidated in the Union Academy, an adobe building at 200 West and 400 North. In 1884 the University was moved into its first purpose-built building on nearby Union Square, the present site of West High School.
[285] South Cottonwood is now called Murray. It is about four miles east of Taylorsville on the west side of the Jordan River.

to step up as a seventeen-year-old to be a second mother, her only sister being five years younger.

The Mackays were living in South Cottonwood when Winnie's older sister and brother were born in 1886 and 1888.[286] On October 3, 1891, Winnie was born in Taylorsville, the third of nine children, the only one to be born in the house that David had built before his marriage on his 20 acre farm.

When Winnie was three and a half years old, David Mackay bought half of Grandmother Cahoon's large two story adobe house near the Germania smelter in Murray to be close to her since she was living alone due to the divorce.[287] On Sundays they visited the Taylorsville ward and visited Grandmother Mackay.

Their fourth daughter, Gertrude, was born December 14, 1893, in grandmother Cahoon's house.

Due to poor health, David moved his family to the Richie Ranch in Charleston, Wasatch County in the spring of 1900, taking Grandma Cahoon with them. The farm was south of Charleston on the Provo River near the head of Provo Canyon. That summer the census showed David as a farmer with his wife Maria Mackay and six children aged one through 13. Although John Richie moved permanently to Provo later that year, he lived only a few houses away, and many of his extended family were nearby. Gertrude wrote that her father bought the farm[288] and that there were lovely apple trees and plums there. They sold butter. Her mother would make 40 lbs. at a time to sell once a week. Winnie was eight years old.

The family remained in Charleston for about a year, but the doctor advised David to move to a lower elevation, so they moved to Payette Valley, Idaho, arriving April 1, 1901, at Emmet.

They went by passenger rail car and shipped their animals and other belongings by freight train to end of the line and went the rest of the way by spring wagon with their ailing father lying down in the back of the buggy, while the boys drove the animals. David and Maria's seventh child John (known as Jack) was born in Emmett on August 5, not long after their arrival. At first there were only

Mackay family in Emmett 1901

[286] South Cottonwood's name was changed to Murray in 1883 when it got a U.S. Post Office.
[287] Andrew Cahoon was living with his first wife but is said to have visited Margaret often.
[288] According to Theron Lambert's notes, the ranch was leased.

three Mormon families in the town, but more families moved in, and later an LDS ward was created. They held Sunday School in their rented home and the missionaries boarded with them for free. Gertrude wrote that they sold butter, eggs, and vegetables. It was a seven-mile ride each way to school, so only 13 year old Orson attended school that winter.

David's health improved, and in the early spring, the Mackays moved 13 miles south to Bramwell, where David filed on another homestead.[289] *There he helped to pioneer the first irrigation project in the Payette Valley and helped to start the first LDS branch. Bramwell is about 35 miles northwest of Boise. Gertrude recalled, "In Bramwell, Idaho we cleared sage brush from ground and raised hay, grain and berries, fruits and real good gardens, the best melons I've eaten."*

Mackay family in Bramwell ca, 1903

Margaret "Retta" Isabell Mackey, David Mackey's oldest child, married Edward Hoagland in Salt Lake City on October 11, 1905, and following their marriage they lived at Emmett.

In 1906 the Mackay family moved again, this time to the Uintah Basin in Utah, and this time the reason was not David's health, but education. The four oldest children at home were teenagers and ready for high school, and the Ashley Academy was up and running in Vernal. There may be another reason as well. David's sister Jane and her husband Enos Bennion (both originally of Taylorsville) lived in Vernal. Enos's father

Mackay family ca. 1905. Back: Winnie, Orson, Retta, Gertrude, Middle: David, Clyde, Maria, Genevieve, Front: Thursa, Jack.

[289] David Mackay proved up on two adjacent homesteads totaling about 280 acres seven miles west of Emmett and two miles northwest of Bramwell.

Samuel Bennion was president of the Uintah Stake. Enos had been living in Vernal off and on since 1887 and brought Jane there in 1899, where they built a nice house. David and Maria's oldest daughter Retta and her husband Edward Hoagland may also have preceded them to the Basin. David bought a 500 acre ranch on west side of the Green River about four miles downstream from Jensen on September 6, 1906, just in time to put the children into school in Vernal. They moved from Idaho by team and wagon, a trip of 550 miles while Mariah was eight months pregnant with her last child. David raised hay, wheat, and beef, selling them at the stage station on Green River and at Fort Duchesne.

The Mackay ranch was about 16 miles (as the crow flies--the river winds a lot) south of Vernal, and about seven miles north of Ouray, but the family rented a house in Vernal, where Maria and the children lived during the school year.

Retta's first child died the day he was born in Vernal on October 20,1906, but during the homesteading rush the Hoagland family settled at Cedarview on Cottonwood Creek just six miles north of Roosevelt. After two more children were born there, Retta and Edward moved back to Idaho near Emmett.

On October 20, 1906, Winnie's youngest sister Annie was born in Vernal, where they were living for the school year. Winnie was 15, so she did the housework, prepared meals, and did laundry while the younger children went to school.

Gertrude wrote, "My first full year of schooling was in Vernal (I didn't get started until middle of Oct. and had to leave in March...(but) I did a full year's work and really enjoyed my school friends. I was in the 4th grade. My teacher was Elizabeth Barlett." But Gertrude did her seventh grade in Jensen, apparently living at the ranch, and drove four miles to school with her younger siblings Clyde and Gen. She said that they often had to break road through the snow, of which they had plenty that year. "Then I went part of year at Vernal to the Uintah Stake Academy but had to quit." Winnie taught Sunday School in the Jensen Ward.

During the winter 1907-08 Winnie and Orson lived with their mother Maria in Vernal while they attended the Uintah Stake Academy. Orson milked the cows and did chores to pay for board, and Winnie prepared breakfast for herself and five other students. The tuition for a year at the academy was $10.00. Winnie graduated after a total of eight years of schooling.

The family returned to the ranch and attended church in Jensen, but Winnie and her brother Lincoln, five years younger, rode 13 miles to Vernal to attend the MIA dances once a month with the horse and buggy. She wrote, "We would get back to the ranch just about in time for him to do chores and (for me to) start breakfast for the men. In the winter we traveled by bob sleigh instead".

During 1907 and 1908, David Mackay was the straw boss of canal building from the Uintah River north of Roosevelt to the north side of the Green River and sold his crops to Ft. Duchesne.[290]

The family was living in Jensen when Orson went on a mission[291] *to the Northwestern States after his graduation from Uintah Stake Academy. His mother Maria took him to Salt Lake City and remained several weeks to help care for her mother who was ill. That year Winnie cooked four meals daily for her father and nine men on the ranch, making everything from scratch. The next year she cooked for as many as 21 men including her father's younger brother Julian.*

Having already used his homestead right in Idaho, David bought 360 acres of reservation land in the name of Maria Antoinette Mackay from a homesteader for $480 on April 16, 1910. The land was located just north of Pelican Lake on the eastern edge of the Indian Reserve.[292] *They had to occupy it for six months and make improvements, so Winnie moved to the reservation with her father to do the housekeeping, since her mother and younger sisters were afraid of the Indians and wanted to stay in town. In a two-room house on the homestead, Winnie scrubbed the bare wood floors, cooked three meals a day, and planted a small vegetable garden.*

Around March 1910 David Mackay bought a farm about three miles northwest of Roosevelt near the Timothy homestead with a two room shanty[293] *referred to as "the blue house."*

At the time of the census in Vernal in May of 1910, the whole Mackay family was living in "Old Ashley," two miles north of Vernal, just two doors away from Bill and Mary Lambert Gibson, an aunt of Winnie's future husband. David's younger brother Julian Mackay remained on the ranch in Jensen with his family until about 1914. By this time Winnie was 19 years old, and the other six children were between three and 17. Of course Margaret, the oldest, was not with them as she had married Edward Hoagland five years earlier and was living on their homestead in Cedarview about six miles north of Roosevelt. Orson was probably back from his mission by this time but was apparently living elsewhere.

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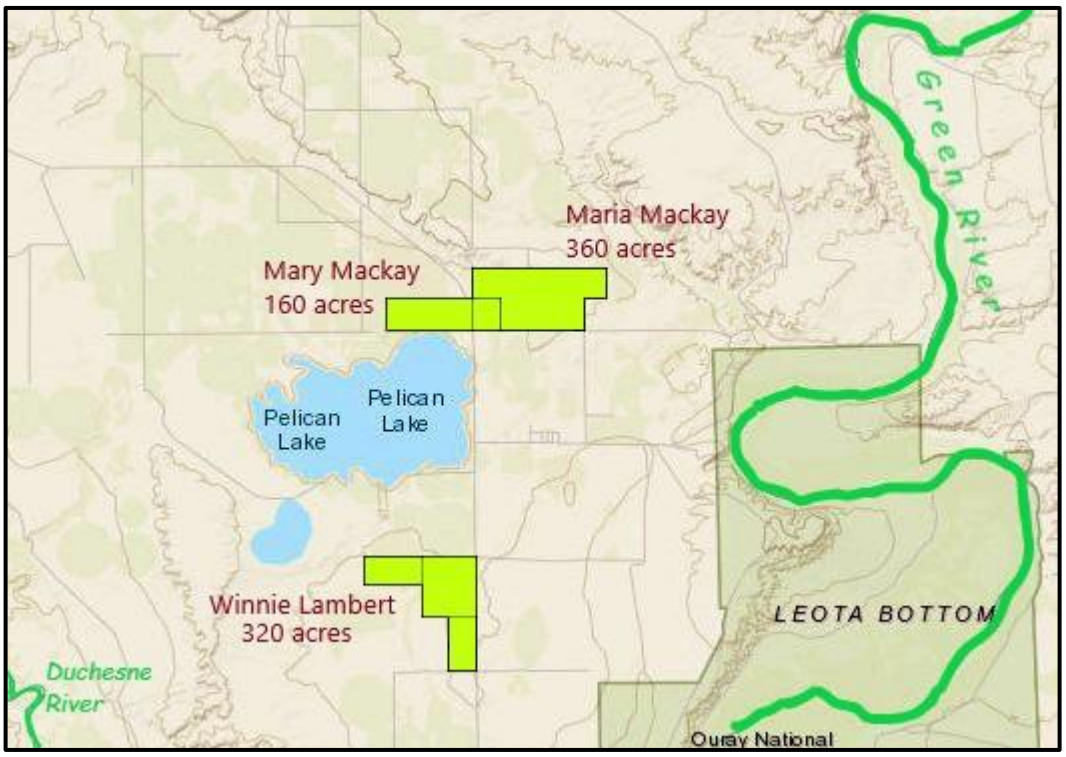
[290] Theron Lambert notes. David was working for the Ouray Irrigation Company's 20-mile long "gray Ditch," which provided Uintah River water to Ouray. It was completed in 1915.
[291] Orson was ordained an Elder October 18, 1908, by Archie Richardson.
[292] Under the homestead act of 1862 there was a quicker path to ownership referred to as "commutation." After a six-month residency and minor improvements, a claimant could pay the government $1.25 per acre to gain full title. Also, claims that might have been abandoned or failed could come available for direct cash sale. There was no prior name in the tract book, so it seems to have been bought outright from the government.
[293] Theron Lambert notes.

On August 16, 1910, David bought 320 additional acres of reservation land about two miles south of Maria's farm by Pelican Lake. It had originally been bought by John D. Massey.[294] *The property is 17 miles (as the crow flies) southeast of Roosevelt about three miles from*



the Green River and three miles from the Duchesne River.[295]

David Orson Mackay sold his Green River ranch near Jensen on September 26, 1910[296] *and moved his family to Roosevelt, where they moved into a two story frame house*[297] *about a block and a half from the Dry Gulch bridge* [298] *Gertrude, who was almost 17 at the time,*

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[294] John D. Massey was from West Virginia, where he joined the Church, moved to Colorado, and then to Daniel in Wasatch County where he heard about the homesteads in Uintah. He brought ten children including six boys between 10 and 21, arriving about the middle of 1906. He helped to construct the road from Heber to Duchesne while several of children attended BYU. They drew out for a homestead and moved to Vernal around 1910, and after a brief stay at least one of the sons moved to Dry Fork for several years before moving back to Vernal.

[295] The ranch is currently being farmed, judging from Google maps showing irrigation circles. It is now called the Four Star Ranch and it's about a mile west of Leota, which is now a ghost town. The first settler in Leota was William Philo Ellsworth, who had been sent there by Stake President William Smart on October 12, 1912. In 1927, before the town disappeared for lack of irrigation water, it had an LDS meeting house, a brick schoolhouse, two stores, and two service stations. There are now oil wells on Winnie's former property.

[296] The date comes from Winnie's biography, *FamilySearch* memories KWZQ-NPM.

[297] Theron wrote it was a log house. This could have been the house that David built south of town.

[298] The first Mackay house was a block and a half west of the bridge that crosses Highway 40 at about 350 East, approximately 5th East and 2nd North. Theron wrote that it was a new two-story home one block west of the Gulch in town.

wrote that they traded her horse as part of the deal for the house. According to Orson's biography, they continued farming in Roosevelt. Soon after her arrival in Roosevelt, Winnie was called to be MIA secretary.

Winnie's sister Gertrude, who was seventeen at the time, wrote:

> *In Roosevelt, again it was hay, grain, and some horses that made our biggest income. Then I took eighth grade in Roosevelt Elementary (there were three grades in our room). Mr. L. C. Winslow was our teacher.*[299] *Father did a lot of work building canals, and on one job, Gen (her five-year younger sister) and I served as cooks. This was down near Randlett.*[300]

Theron wrote that his grandfather Mackay contracted to build a canal and flume across the Green River above Ouray in the spring of 1911. That was near his property on Pelican Lake. David probably took 22 year old Orson with him along with a crew of workers. They lived in tents and Winnie went with them to cook. The first camp was northeast of Gusher. The younger Mackay children remained in Roosevelt attending school.

David Mackay became the postmaster in Roosevelt in July 1911, replacing Dan Lambert's wife May. The post office was moved into the building that was later the public library. Winnie had worked for May Lambert in the post office part time, and now she was working for her father, and so did her sister Gertrude. David Mackay was probably a Republican, since Taft was president at the time. That summer Winnie traveled with her Aunt Jane and Uncle Enos Bennion from Vernal and their children in a "white top" to Salt Lake City via Daniels Canyon to visit her Mackay relatives. She developed abdominal pain while swimming in the Great Salt Lake and Enos had to carry her from the water. She was hospitalized and had surgery for a ruptured appendix.[301]

Winnie wrote that she met Robert Lambert at the Gold and Green Ball in Vernal November 11, 1911. She had been told wonderful things about him and was anxious for the introduction. Robert had been working that summer in Vernal at the farm of his uncle, Bill Gibson.

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[299] Leonard Claire Winslow was a childless 33 year old bachelor, living next door to a brother and in the same home with a sheep man, likely his employer on the last page of the Theodore census. He was listed as a farmer but said to be a teacher on his death certificate. I surmise that he lived midway between the towns of Theodore and Roosevelt.

[300] That is interesting, since Randlett is only about seven miles from the three homesteads that David bought near Pelican Lake.

[301] Theron Lambert notes.

But Robert claims in his brief autobiography that he met Winnie in Roosevelt. How could their recollections be so different?

Possibly he remembered seeing her when the Mackay family moved to Roosevelt in September 1910. Robert was there at the time, since he appears in the family photo of his grandmother's birthday celebration at Dan's home around September 13th. He moved away to work in Vernal shortly after that, so she couldn't have gotten to know him in the Roosevelt Ward, and he may not have made an impression on him during their brief first encounter. When they met a year later in Vernal, Robert was probably staying in the home[302] of his uncle and aunt, the Gibsons, who had been neighbors to the Mackays north of Vernal before Winnie moved to Roosevelt.

On the weekend after their introduction, they had their first date at a party and dance held at Orpheus Hall, the new community center in Vernal.[303] They went to more dances, and Robert would walk her home from Sunday School, spend the day with her family, and then go back to Sacrament Meeting. On Wednesday evenings they attended lectures by a BYU professor, who was probably connected with the Uintah Stake Academy.

Bill and Mary Gibson house

The family members that Winnie mentioned were her extended family living in Vernal at the time including her father's sister Jane, whose husband Enos Bennion was the president of the bank in Vernal. The Bennions lived in a two story brick home with three children aged six through eleven.[304] Winnie's uncle, Julian Benedict Mackay, also lived in Uintah County. He had lived with his young wife and four young children in Jenson since 1909, where he worked on David Mackay's ranch. Winnie's brother Orson may have been in Vernal as well.

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[302] This house, known as the Gibson-Sowards House, still stands at 3110 N. 250 W. in Vernal. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Wikipedia.

[303] Orpheus Hall was opened on Thanksgiving Day, November 30, 1911. It was explicitly built to be a social center where the entire community could gather for entertainment and events. The hall featured a dance floor supported by springs, a stage, and other amenities like a ladies' parlor and check rooms. Over the years, it also began showing movies and was used for other community activities.

[304] Sadly, Jane became ill in the spring of 1912 and moved to California, where she died later that year.

He was back from his mission by then, still unmarried, and not living with his parents in Roosevelt.

Winnie went home after a memorable time in Vernal. I do not know exactly when Robert returned to Roosevelt but suspect it was around the same time, and they continued their relationship there.

Mary Mackay and D. D. Carter in Roosevelt Mercantile

Orson Mackay married a Vernal girl named Mary Hannah Collins in Salt Lake City on February 28, 1912, and then moved directly to Roosevelt. Mary was born in Wales in 1893 and immigrated to Murray, Utah with her family when she was two. She was still a child when her family moved to Vernal by team and wagon. Maybe Orson and Mary had known each other in Murray, since they both lived there as children, but they certainly grew up together in Vernal before her family moved to a homestead about a mile northwest of Roosevelt in March 21, 1907. After working as a waitress for a year she got a job in the C.C. Larsen department store where she was working when she married Orson. Their kids were born in Roosevelt beginning April 1915.

Robert Moroni Michie[305] died in Tabiona on February 23, 1912, of internal hemorrhage due to broken ribs. The accident was reported in the newspaper:[306] "Robert Michie of Farm Creek fell into the saw pit at Tabby lumber mill breaking three ribs, one of which punctured his lung." He didn't visit a doctor and died 17 days after the accident. Robert was only 53 years old. His wife Elena was the relief society president in the Tabiona Ward.

Robert Lambert appeared in the local newspaper's report of a play called "Among the Breakers" on February 27, 1912, in which he had a bit part.

Winnie passed the civil service exam that year to qualify as assistant postmistress[307] and also worked as secretary and treasurer of the public library on the southwest corner of

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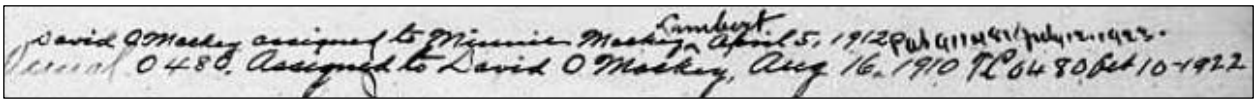
[305] Recall that Robert and Elena had the double wedding with their siblings Joseph and Alice.
[306] *Duchesne Record* p.1.
[307] Postmaster was a political appointment which did not require a civil service exam and would refer to either a male or a female. Postmistress was not an official term but was applied to a hired female assistant to the Postmaster and required a civil service examination.

Lagoon and Main Street. Stake President Smart opened a high school that year complete with a "theological seminary" to teach Church doctrines, and he led the successful bond election to fund the school despite opposition from the gentiles in Myton. The school was initially opened in the Blackhurst building on Main Street and was called Duchesne High School after the name of the new county.[308]

In April, David Mackay formally transferred the title to 320 acres of his land near Pelican Lake to his daughter, Winnie Mackay.[309] After her marriage the title was altered to reflect her married name.



Muriel Agnes Lambert, the 13 year old daughter of Ephraim and Agnes, died in Roosevelt on May 10,1912. The cause is not known.

The U. S. military moved out of Fort Duchesne that August, and the Indian agency was placed under the Department of the Interior.

An interesting brief news item was published in the Vernal paper on November 22, 1912. "Miss Winnie Mackay and Robert Lambert have gone to Salt Lake to be married."[310] That was simply a rumor and flat out wrong, but clearly people were aware that they were a serious couple. They would not be married for another year. Robert was in Roosevelt at the time of the news story, but Winnie was in Taylorsville staying with relatives.[311] She had been called to Salt Lake City to testify in the trial of a rural post office man who had allegedly misused post office funds. She wrote to her boyfriend Robert about her difficult trip to Salt Lake City on November 14th.

> Dear Friend Robert, I guess you think I'm a dandy. Surely you will forgive me this once? Oh! We had a lovely trip coming in, came near taking our annual bath in the creek but it was most too cold… Say Robert, I've about decided I'm not so gone on traveling and living at hotels. This trip has settled it with me but then the roads are

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[308] Later Duchesne High School became Roosevelt High, and still later, Union High School, and the nearby town of Duchesne got its own high school and took back the name.

[309] "United States, Bureau of Land Management Tract Books, 1800-c. 1955," *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6K5P-9HZT : Fri Mar 08 08:30:14 UTC 2024), Entry for John D. Massey and David O Maskey, 10 Oct 1922.

[310] *Vernal Express*,, November 22, 1912, p. 4.

[311] Winnie's widowed grandfather John Mackay was living there with her maiden Aunt Isabella, next door to two families of young cousins.

> dreadful. Honestly they are really dangerous in two parts. (I) don't know whether we will get home alive or not. Wishing you success and happiness always. Winnie.

She had met the four-horse stage coach from Vernal at Roosevelt and traveled to Duchesne, where she stayed overnight at President Billings' home, and then continued up Indian Canyon, changing to horsedrawn sled until Colton, and then by stage to Price, where she stayed overnight, and finally went by train to Salt Lake City.[312]

Robert made several romantic journal entries about Winnie during that winter as the courtship progressed.[313]

In February, Robert took part in a Mutual Improvement Association debate on the question: "Resolved that Co-operation in Trade and Manufacture is better than Competition." He and his debate partner, the school principal,[314] argued the negative side and won the debate.[315]

On that same day, the town of Roosevelt was officially incorporated at a mass meeting of 44 citizens. The town remained part of Wasatch County for another year, and then it became a third class city in the newly created Duchesne County with its founder Ed F. Harmston as mayor.

When Duchesne County was created, a struggle ensued between Roosevelt, Myton and Duchesne over the location of the county seat. By a popular vote of the new county's citizens, the town of Duchesne was made the county seat, Roosevelt got the first high school, and Myton got nothing. After that, Roosevelt and Duchesne became the centers of commerce for the county.[316]

Robert proposed marriage in March 1913 and gave Winnie a ring. By April he was in Salt Lake City attending LDS Business College, where he studied for six months.

Robert's parents had not yet bought their 60 farm acres south of town from Ephraim Lambert. An advertisement was posted May 23,1913, for a lost pair of "iron three-horse eveners, lost between Austin Packard's and Joseph Lambert's ranches.[317] This suggests

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[312] Theron Lambert Notes.
[313] *FamilySearch* memories, Winnie Mackay Lambert by Linda Bateman KWZQ-NPM.
[314] The principal was Ephraim Lambert's son-in-law James Hoyt, who moved to Roosevelt from Preston, Idaho three years earlier with his wife Mary Alice, Robert's cousin.
[315] *Duchesne Record*, February 21, 1913, p. 1.
[316] Short History, p. 25.
[317] *Duchesne Record*, May 23, 1913, p. 8. Austin "Packard" is actually Austin Pack, the next household to Joseph Lambert in 1930 census. Pack's homestead and his family were in north ½ of section 15, in the north part of Roosevelt.

that Joseph Lambert had land at the time that was north of 200 North Street, perhaps near the Timothy homestead where David Mackay had bought property before leaving Vernal.[318]

On June 17,1913, Clarence Lambert eloped to marry 21 year old Minnie Esther Smith in Farmington and then moved briefly to American Fork where their baby Twilla was born September 8th, less than three months after their marriage. This was no doubt an embarrassment to his father, the first counselor in the stake presidency. The couple had known each other in Roosevelt since 1908 when Minnie was 16. After their baby was born they returned to Roosevelt.

David Mackay bought another 160 acres in the name of Orson's wife Mary next to Maria's property on Pelican Lake in Uintah County for $200 on October 20, 1913. A man named Moroni Musser[319] had originally bought it for $40 from the reservation on April 12, 1907. That was not the full price of $1.25 per acre, which suggests that Musser had forfeited the homestead for some reason, and David bought it in foreclosure for the full price.

The Mackays moved from their house near the bridge and built another one on the south edge of Roosevelt.

Winnie and Robert had planned to be married on October 4th, but her father David Mackay was experiencing his heart trouble again, and they decided to postpone the wedding to give him time to go to a lower altitude and get better medical treatment in California. However, they didn't wait long.

Robert and Winnie's wedding photo

Winnie's parents were still in Roosevelt in early November, when Robert, who had been studying at the business school in Salt Lake, met Winnie at the depot and kissed her in public.[320] She stayed at her grandmother Cahoon's house in Murray until their temple wedding on November 5th. Then they returned by rail to Colten (just past Soldier Summit in Spanish Fork Canyon) and by car to Roosevelt via Indian Canyon and moved in with her parents, who had only recently moved into the house themselves.

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[318] The Timothys had a homestead on Dry Gulch about 4-5 miles northwest of Roosevelt, but Pack's homestead was only about a mile north of town.

[319] Moroni Musser was a single man, who also had land in Myton. He died April 11, 1932, at the age of 51. His death certificate reads "Died alone in a lonely cabin. Heart trouble." His brother Fred Musser was bishop of the Myton Ward 1913-1915.

[320] Theron Lambert Notes.

A month later, David and Maria Mackay and two of their children left for California, and the newlyweds took over the care of Genevieve, Thursa, Jack, and Clyde who were in school, and managed the post office.

Gertrude Mackay, who had just turned 20, wrote:

> In December 1913, Mother, Father, Ann (age seven), and myself went to San Diego, California as Father had been told to go for his health. We went by train from Colton. Orson took us to Colton from Roosevelt in our white top (drawn) by team. The train was about eight hours late on account of a snow storm. We remained in Salt Lake until December 27. The train was real late again. We went to Los Angeles and changed trains and on to San Diego. In the later part of February, we all came (back) to Los Angeles, and Mother and Ann came home. Father and I went back to San Diego and stayed until the last of May, then went to Los Angeles by train. In August, I came home to Salt Lake by train to Colton, Utah where Orson met me.

According to the municipal census of January 1, 1914, Roosevelt had a population of 563.[321]

On January 3, 1914, Joseph Lambert was called to be a special assistant to I. W. Odenkirk of the Myton Branch to prepare it to become a ward, and Robert was called to be first councilor to Paul Hansen[322] in the Roosevelt bishopric.

Sometime after July 1913, national politics led to the appointment of Clarence L. Ashton to be the Roosevelt postmaster by the newly elected Democrat Woodrow Wilson, and the post office was moved south of the brand new Ashton hardware store on east Main Street between first and second north.[323] Winnie, who was already certified for the work, probably worked a while for Ashton in the post office.[324] Clarence, then 21 years old, was in a joint venture with his father Leslie and his older brother Rae. That fall the post office was moved across the street into the north side of the Birch building.[325]

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[321] *Roosevelt Standard*, August 29, 1914. p. 4.

[322] Paul Soren Hansen was born in 1875 in Fountain Green, Utah to Danish immigrant parents. After attending BY Academy, he was a stock man in Castle Dale before moving to Roosevelt in 1910. He served a mission in Chicago during World War I, leaving his wife and eight children.

[323] Sanborn Map, Library of Congress. http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g4344rm.g088891917

[324] Clarence was 21 years old and single. He was born in Vernal in 1891, the grandson of William Ashton, the census taker who was discussed in Chapter Three.

[325] Clarence, who later became manager of the store, opened a law office upstairs, and he later became mayor of Roosevelt in 1924. The Ashton Hardware gradually grew into a department store with a grocery and meat market. They also ran a service station.

Robert and Winnie obtained their patriarchal blessings from Ephraim Lambert in March 1914. By then Robert was 27.

No longer a postmaster, Robert was hunting for odd jobs. He drove a truck hauling freight and took his first civil service exam for the post office in May 1914, probably hoping to work as an assistant to Clarence Ashton, who needed help since he had his hands full with his hardware business.

When David and 20 year old Gertrude Mackay returned from California at the end of September, Winnie and Robert moved out of the Mackay home into their own house,[326] which Robert later called, "A two-room lumber shack with no modern conveniences. I think it was about as happy a home as any we have had since."

Joseph Lambert became bishop in Roosevelt on October 7, 1914, and served until 1919, and Robert was called to the stake high council. Winnie wrote that as a high councilman, Robert was sometimes away from home up to three days at a time, visiting distant wards on horseback. Robert and Winnie's first child, Theron Lambert, was born in the tiny shack on October 29, 1914.

Theron wrote,

> When I was born, the town had a total of six blocks of cement sidewalks if you added the half blocks together, and all other sidewalks were hard packed dirt. And a few of the houses had only dirt floors. No one had indoor plumbing--just a dirt path to an outhouse, which housed a Sears Catalog for the convenience of guests.[327]

Electricity was turned on in Roosevelt on the first Monday of January 1915. The stage time between Vernal and Roosevelt, about 30 miles, was two hours.

In 1915, Dan Lambert developed a large swelling in his neck. He was sent by Dr. Morton[328] to Salt Lake City where he was operated on, but he was never very well from then on.

Dr. Morton's hospital in Roosevelt was in the former home of Eben Snow[329] about a half mile northeast of Ephraim's quarter section. Morton was the first doctor in Roosevelt and had for a few years had been the only physician for miles. He set up the hospital July 1,

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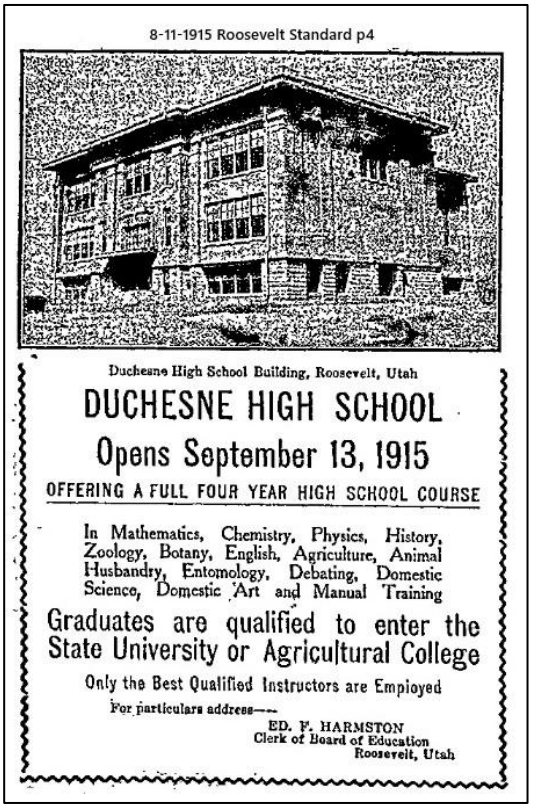
[326] Theron Lambert Notes. This was probably on one of Joseph's three lots on Block 18. (See map on page ?)
[327] Theron Lambert Notes.
[328] John Edwin "Eddie" Morton grew up in Midway and Heber, where he began his practice around 1902 after medical school in San Francisco, spent four years in Kaysville, and then moved to Roosevelt where he practiced from 1912 to 1928.
[329] Eben Snow was born in England and moved to the valley from Ephraim via Vernal. He also farmed and served as deputy sheriff. He moved to Salem in 1914.

1914. Other early doctors include William Leonard Sutherland, who also served on the Roosevelt City Council, and Doctors Kendall, Padget, Miles,[330] and Whitmore.


8-11-1915 Roosevelt Standard p4

Duchesne High School Building, Roosevelt, Utah

DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

Opens September 13, 1915

OFFERING A FULL FOUR YEAR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE

In Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, History, Zoology, Botany, English, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Entomology, Debating, Domestic Science, Domestic Art and Manual Training

Graduates are qualified to enter the State University or Agricultural College

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ED. F. HARMSTON
Clerk of Board of Education
Roosevelt, Utah

Initially, high school was held in the old Blackhurst building. Then in September 1915, a brick building known as Duchesne County High School was completed in the northwest corner of Roosevelt in about the center of a plot of about 30 acres donated by Stake President William H. Smart. The high school students changed buildings mid-year. Ephraim Lambert's son-in-law, James Hoyt, was still the principal after two years in the old building.[331]

A Congressional Act on March 4, 1915, granted the superintendent of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation authority to lease Indian land for cultivation and grazing, extending the previous five year limit, in order to keep water rights for white settlers at the expense of the Utes' control of their land. That was important for Winnie's homestead and the two other family homesteads near Pelican Lake.

David's father John Rogers Mackay died of heart failure in Taylorsville on March 18, 1915, at the age of 81.

Election returns were posted in April with Robert serving as an election judge.[332] As one of nine candidates for town council, Robert Lambert finished tied for last with one vote. Eash of the top five candidates received over 150 votes.

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[330] Dr. Lurrine Miles practiced in Roosevelt and Duchesne County before the 1930s. She is specifically mentioned as being "probably the most remembered by county residents" among the physicians who practiced in the area. She is said to have delivered over 5,000 babies.

[331] *Roosevelt Standard*, September 1, 1915. p. 4.

[332] *Roosevelt Standard*, April 21, 1915, page 2.

This is a photo of David Mackay's second house in Roosevelt, probably taken in 1915, with my speculation on the identity of the characters from left to right.

Gertrude Mackay, 22, Theron, 1, with Winnie, 24, Maria, 50, with Orson's Wendall who died July 1915. The small boy is possibly Clyde Hoagland, 5, (Retta's son visiting from Spanish Fork), and Genevieve, 17.

The Roosevelt newspaper announced on December 15, 1915, "D. O. Mackay sold his home in Roosevelt to J. H. Lambert the past week."[333] Theron clarified this somewhat when he wrote that David "had traded house and land on the south edge of Roosevelt for three city lots (that) Lamberts had."

Theron wrote of the above house,

> On Christmas Day 1915 we walked to J. H. Lambert's log house on the farm one mile south of Roosevelt for Christmas Dinner. Dad mostly carried me. I recall three aunts, two uncles, grandparents, and my parents eating Christmas dinner and a potbellied heater and God Bless Our home sign that aunts showed me and told me about several times. My first sight of Gulch.[334]

David Mackay moved to Provo with Maria, Gertrude, Clyde, Genevieve, and Jack, so that his children could attend Brigham Young Academy. Orson's wife Mary Hannah wrote of David's time in Provo,

> For six years we moved from place to place. David worked at different things, and he had his boys with him. They farmed at Roosevelt, constructed a canal to Ouray Valley, had sheep on White River, farmed at National, built and graded the railroad to Columbia Coal Mines, and built gravel roads in Provo City. We moved from place to place with him.[335]

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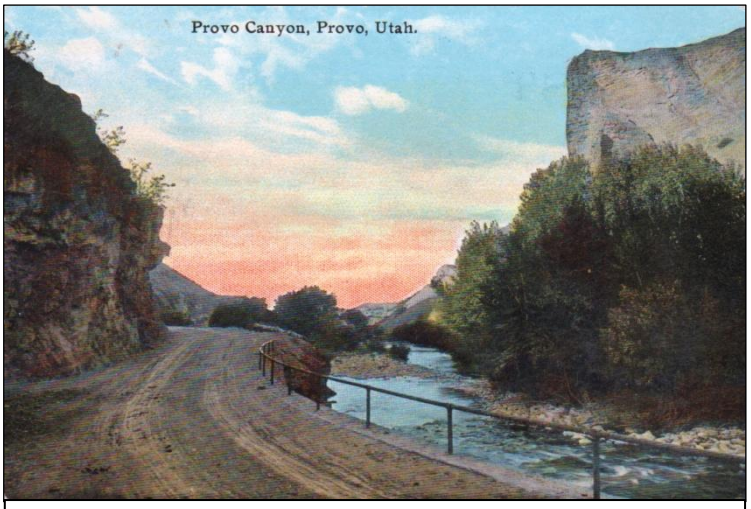
[333] *Roosevelt Standard*, December 15, 1915, p. 3.
[334] Theron Lambert notes. The house is actually about a half mile from the gulch where highway 40 curves onto Main Street.
[335] *FamilySearch* memories, Mary Hanna Collins KWC1-YG6.

On March 8, 1916, Orson sent a cute postcard from Provo to Theron, who was just 18 months old.

> My dear little man, how are you and Mamma & Papa? How I have missed you, no little arms to come to every night, and no little boy to say goodbye to.[336] I hope you are well. Be a good boy for Papa & Mamma and come out to see Aunt Mary and Uncle Orson as soon as you can, with best wishes and love to you all I am as ever yours. D. O. Mackay Jr. oxoxoxoxoxox



Reverse side of Orson's post card. Note the Provo River road.

That spring, Winnie took Orson up on his invitation and went to Provo with Theron for about two months to be with her family, leaving Robert in Roosevelt. A week or two later Robert also left Roosevelt to visit Salt Lake City.

The Annual Convention of all the Stakes of Zion was to be held in Salt Lake City June 8-10, and all local officers of organizations were asked to be present. A local newspaper reported, "Mr. Robert Lambert will leave for Salt Lake City on Wednesday morning with a load of passengers. He will make the trip in his truck." It was later announced that "R.S. Lambert arrived here early Sunday morning from Salt Lake with sixteen passengers."[337]

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[336] Orson and Mary were still grieving their own first child Wendell, who had died as an infant the previous summer.

[337] *Roosevelt Standard*, July 5, 1916. p. 3. Could that have been J.R. Lambert? If so, they were away for several weeks or made two trips. I could find no "R. S." Lambert.

This must be the aforementioned delivery truck. The same issue of the newspaper also reported on the sales of motorized vehicles in Roosevelt that month—there were three: an Overland and two Dodges. I suspect the truck was borrowed or owned by an employer. Only a year earlier, he had been making his high council visits by horseback.

Stock photo of a 1916 truck.

According to their son Theron, Robert and Winnie moved into the "Dillman" house in 1916 but lived there for less than a year.[338]

Both Robert and Winnie were out of town when the local press covered the following disturbance concerning the post office. Since it directly concerns Robert and illustrates the loyalty of his father Joseph, I will relate it in detail. Joseph wrote the following irate letter to the editor:

> Editor Free Press: Inasmuch as my son, J. R. Lambert, is not at home, I take pleasure in setting the Free Press right. The article states, "It is said that J. R. Lambert is a Republican." I refute that statement and say that it is a wicked falsehood and furthermore, that those kind of untruths are what some of the pretended friends of the present postmaster have used and are using in the "business" spoken of in the article to which this is an answer. I know whereof I speak, for I have a copy of the telegram they sent out. J.R. Lambert is a Democrat and his people also. I have known them nearly sixty years, and they too are the kind of Democrats that count; they, too, support the Democratic party with their money, and vote the Democratic ticket and as such have received the support of the party and have never betrayed it. J. H. Lambert.[339]

Unfortunately, I couldn't find the original article that Joseph referenced but let me try to parse the problem.

It is understandable that people thought Robert was a Republican, since he originally took over the post office from David Mackay, a Republican appointee, and was even married to

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[338] Ray Dillman was the young county attorney, who had married Mildred Miles, a teacher at the high school on July 1, 1916. They bought a little house on a lot with a "honey house" on it. The newlyweds renovated the house and moved in by year's end. So, if Robert and Winnie lived there, they either roomed with the Dillmans or lived in the honey house. The house was on the southwest corner of 100 East and 200 North. See *FamilySearch* memories, KWCW-1FZ.

[339] *Myton Free Press*, July 6, 1916.

David's daughter. And he later lost his position to Clarence Ashton, a Democrat, when national political tides changed. And contrary to Joseph's claim, some of the Lamberts actually were Republicans. Remember that Ephraim Lambert ran as a Republican against his brother Dan for the Wasatch County Commission in 1908. Regardless, one must admire the fervor of Joseph's defense of his son.

In another article on the same page, the newspaper also printed an explanation from National Democratic Committeeman James H. Moyle to County Chairman Ashley Bartlett and Committeeman James O'Neil regarding the ousting of Postmaster Ashton from the Roosevelt post office and the recommendation of Robert Lambert.

In a nutshell, Ashton was simply not doing his job. Finding Ashton wholly occupied with his mercantile business, the Democratic county chairman, the precinct chairman, representative O'Neil and twelve Roosevelt businessmen had all recommended that Robert Lambert should replace him.

So, Robert Lambert's appointment went through the proper channels, but the response by the Ashtons did not. The disgruntled Ashton had made a mistake by appealing his case to Republican Senator Reed Smoot, when he should have taken it to the state Democratic committee.

No wonder Joseph Lambert was upset. People were accusing Robert of playing dirty politics. This was not just a local issue, since it appeared in multiple editions of the Salt Lake City papers as well.[340] Soon afterward Joseph and Robert Lambert were two of eight delegates to a Democratic mass meeting at Myton, and Winnie was chosen as an alternate.

Robert Lambert was officially appointed to a four-year term as postmaster in Roosevelt by President Woodrow Wilson on July 24, 1916. I suppose that he continued to run it out of Ashton's building, for he did not complete his own brick building to house the post office until 1918.

The local newspaper closed the post office controversy and tried to reduce the heat with the following summary.

[340] *Salt Lake Tribune*, July 21, 1916, p. 10. Postmastership Finally Settled. (There were many more.)

> Robert Lambert took charge of the post office here Sunday. Mr. Lambert was appointed postmaster here last spring and confirmed by the senate in June. He was assistant postmaster under Mr. Mackie (sic) and for about a month as assistant under Mr. Ashton. Mr. Ashton leaves the post office with a fine record, having made many improvements while he was in charge.[341]

Photo from Dillman book including the post office. The pictured Roosevelt Banking Co. was not organized until 1913, so the post office shown next door is probably where Robert and Winnie worked from August 1916 until they built their own building in 1918.

Now with a dependable source of income, Robert was planning to build his own post office building. Robert and his father Joseph Lambert financed the project together.

The plan to build became public in November. "G. B. Kelley has the contract for the Lambert building. This building will be south of the Roosevelt Mercantile store[342] and will be of brick 50 x 60 ft."[343] The Lambert family appeared regularly in the newspapers during the next few months, but the actual construction would not begin for nearly a year.

> Mr. and Mrs. Orson Mackay of Provo are visiting relatives and friends in this section. Mr. Mackay claims this is the busiest place in Utah.[344]
>
> Jo. O. Brockbank is drilling a well on the Ephraim Lambert farm. He expects to strike an artesian flow in about a hundred feet. On April 18, Wm. Rutherford met with a

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[341] *Roosevelt Standard*, September 13, 1916, p. 4.
[342] The Mercantile store was on the west side of Main Street, the third building from the corner of Main Street and Lagoon Street. Robert and Winnie's store would be the fourth building south of the main intersection of the town just north of the midpoint of the block.
[343] *Roosevelt Standard*, November 1, 1916, p. 5.
[344] *Roosevelt Standard*, November 8, 1916.

> serious accident while helping with the drilling for water on the Lambert ranch. His right hand became entangled in the machinery.[345]
>
> J. R. Lambert offering for sale a five year old brown mare in good condition. Gentle and broke to all kinds of farm work. Also, a yearling colt.
>
> Orson Mackay came from Provo to Roosevelt in March 1917 on his way to Randlett, where he was making improvements on his land on Pelican Lake.[346]

In June 1917, William Riley Green Jr. drowned while crossing the Green River at high water while bringing mail back from Manila. He was a 46 year old bachelor, the oldest son of Martha Lambert and William Green, who by this time had both died. William was the first Forest Ranger in Ashley Forest, beginning in 1910, and then he gave up the job and became a rancher of Black Angus cattle.[347] A $1,000 reward posted for recovering William Green's body, but it was never found.

In September construction of the Lambert store and post office building finally got underway.

> Ground breaking was announced for the foundation for a two-story brick building south of the Roosevelt mercantile store. J. H. Lambert is putting up the building and it will be 50 x 60 feet. Part of the building will be used for the post office. On the 26th it was announced that workmen were busy on the foundation.[348]

An annual property tax delinquency list[349] appeared in the local newspapers in December 1917. Joseph Lambert owed $3.77 each on lots 4 and 6 on block 18. Lot 5 was not delinquent. Rob and Winnie probably owned lot 5, since they were on the delinquency for that lot in later years. Block 18 is west of Block 17 where Robert's store and post office were built, so it is near the center of town.

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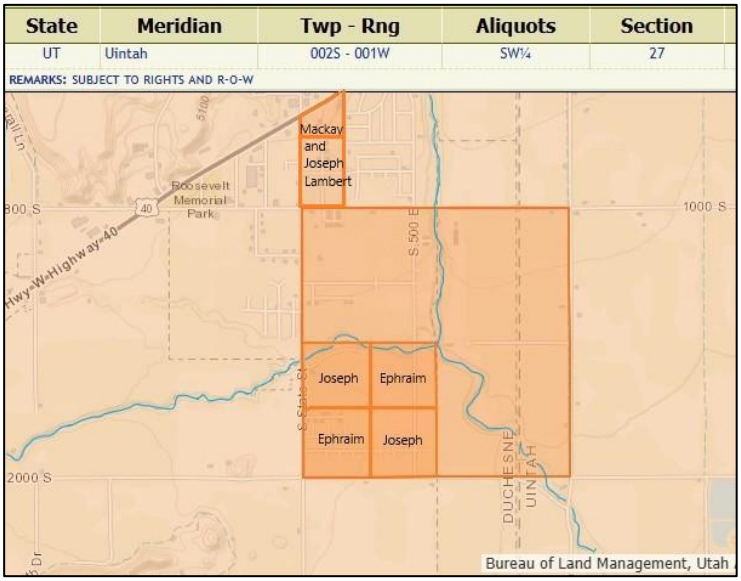
[345] *Roosevelt Standard*, January 7, 1917, p. 5.
[346] *Roosevelt Standard*, March 14, 1917, p. 5.
[347] *FamilySearch* memories, KWVP-KBT.
[348] *Roosevelt Standard*, September 19, 1917.
[349] This has turned out to be a blessing for my research, for the location and size of their property was posted each time.



Joseph also owed $19.66 in property tax for all four lots on block 44 on the south side of West Main Street just south of his three lots on the triangular block with his house on it.

Ephraim owed $113.77 for his quarter section including his large house. He had not yet split the land with Joseph, but by the next assessment, Ephraim and Joseph each owned 80 acres of the homestead. The Lambert brothers divided their land in checkerboard fashion rather than simply dividing it into two halves. Ephraim's son-in-law, James Hoyt, had 22 adjoining acres on the north of Ephraim.

The *Roosevelt Standard* kept the public informed with frequent updates on the Lambert building's progress, one of the first brick structures in Roosevelt. In December 1917, the Carne brothers were busy laying brick. They were done by January 16th, and the carpenters were hoping to have the roof covered by the end of the week. The plasterers came in March and finished by the middle of April. There were eight rooms on the upper floor. The newspaper referred to the new brick building as the Lambert block.

In the spring of 1918 Robert Lambert was advertising thrift stamps to support the war effort, "Shoulder your share of the War's cost." About that time, Robert and Winnie moved from the Dillman house to Clement Blackhurst's bungalow on 3rd West street which he built in 1916.[350] Maurice was born there on April 14, 1918 and weighed 10.5 pounds. On his birth certificate, his father's occupation was given as postmaster and his mother's as housekeeper.

On May 25, 1918, Robert moved the post office into the new building on the back end of the first floor. The newspaper called it the best equipped office in the Basin.[351] The store and the upstairs offices upstairs were finished later and gradually opened up to various types of

[350]Blackhurst owned several properties. Interestingly, Blackhurst was living in the Dillman house in 1920 census with George Madden renting the Honey House while Dillman was on an LDS mission.
[351] *Duchesne Record*, May 25, 1918, p.3.

tenants. The front of the store was not used as a grocery store for another decade, and the Lambert family moved into the upstairs even later.

On June 19, 1918, David Mackay visited Rob and Winnie, bringing Winnie's sisters Jennie and Thursa. David's brother Jule Mackay of Vernal was staying with the Lamberts at the time. Perhaps other Mackays were coming as well.[352]

On October 3, 1918, during General Conference the first sign of the great influenza outbreak was announced. Within four weeks, over 1,500 cases were reported in the state with 117 deaths. Utah had the third highest death rate of all the states, behind only Colorado and Pennsylvania. About four percent of all those infected died, amounting to 2,343 deaths in Utah. BYU and BYU high school closed for three months. The disease was especially difficult for Native Americans. An estimated 62 deaths were recorded on the Uintah Reservation alone.

Theron age four.

Theron wrote that during the epidemic, Winnie helped many families who were ill and covered the post office for Robert to allow him to give priesthood blessings. Nearly every family in the Basin including Robert and Winnie got influenza, but they kept the post office going, meeting each mail truck from Helper three times a week and distributing the mail.

According to a property tax assessment published in the *Roosevelt Standard* on December 4, 1918, Ephraim had 160 acres, but he and Joseph Lambert each had 80 acres when assessed November 19, 1919, so Joseph probably purchased half of Ephraim's homestead during 1919. During that same time, Robert and Winnie moved again, this time to Joseph's newly acquired property.[353]

The title to Maria Antoinette and Mary H. Mackey (Orson's wife) homesteads near Pelican Lake were awarded that month. Winnie's title to the 360 acres south of the lake was granted five years later.

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[352] *Roosevelt Standard*, June 19, 1918, p. 5.

[353] Theron wrote: "Clyde returned from WWI in the early summer of 1919, and they (Theron's parents) were still in the Gulch."

Dan Lambert had a mastoid operation in Salt Lake City for "chronic infection of cervical glands of neck and throat with tonsilitis and mastoiditis" the previous October, and now about ten months later after lying in bed with terrible pain and wasting away to 100 pounds, he died from what we now suspect was cancer.[354] He was 57.

In July 1918 Joseph Lambert won a contract to construct a culinary water system for Roosevelt. It required four miles of trench, a small reservoir near the four springs, and a large reservoir on the hill above town. The reservoirs were to be built of cement, and the pipe was to be laid four feet below ground.[355] Joseph ran an ad recruiting 25 men to work on the trench at $4 a day. They were to bring their own pick and shovel. He and a "large gang of workmen were busy digging a trench on October 9, 1918." Two weeks later the newspaper reported good progress. They had tapped two springs about 15-20 feet below the surface and expected about 50 gallons per minute. It was expected to be the best culinary water system in the basin.

The local paper reported that Dr. J. O. King had moved his office from the Lambert building into the Bracken block, one door east of the Standard office.[356] King was an optician. This is the first evidence that I have found of a tenant in the post office building.

Joseph Lambert was replaced as bishop in 1919 by his predecessor, Paul S. Hansen. Winnie was in the primary presidency (the fourth listed, perhaps the secretary.) By then she had five year old Theron in primary, and Maurice was an infant. Theron recalled helping Winnie boil clothes in a wash boiler on wash days, turning the handle on the wringer of the washer, and helping her to make homemade wash soap by gathering sticks for a fire out of doors.

In addition to his stake calling, Ephraim Lambert was on the board of education from 1920-1929.[357]

Roosevelt was a third class post office until after World War I, when it became second class with two "star routes," each containing four or five smaller towns. In addition, Ft. Duchesne, Randlett, and Myton all had mail sacks delivered from Roosevelt three times a week.

The following is another interesting mention of a tenant in the Lambert building.

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[354] *FamilySearch* memories, KWCD-KGS.
[355] *Roosevelt Standard*, July 31, 1918, p. 1.
[356] *Roosevelt Standard*, September 11, 1918. King moved his business to Salt Lake City before June 1922.
[357] Dillman p. 424.

"The graded school is very crowded in the Roosevelt precinct. There are three rooms that are rented in the Lambert building, which probably have a total of 125 pupils."[358] They were also holding grade school in the churches due to lack of space. Ephraim's 24 year old daughter, Ida Lambert, was teaching third and fourth graders.

The census in Roosevelt was counted on January 5, 1920. Robert and Winnie lived with Theron, who was now five, and Maurice, aged 20 months, in the little house that Robert owned on First East on Block Five. Of course, Robert's occupation was given as post master, a wage earner. Winnie's occupation was listed as "none."

Joseph Lambert house photo by Spike Hurley from and unpublished biography in the possession of Linda Lambert Bateman.

Joseph Lambert and Alice lived in dwelling #151, fairly distant from Robert and Winnie. I believe that they were living in the house that they had bought from David Makay on South Main Street and had improved the exterior log finish. In the column for house number is written "farm," suggesting that they were not living in town, and his farm, which was marked as mortgaged in 1910 was now marked "own farm." He had paid Ephraim for his share of the homestead on Section 27. Their twenty-six year old daughter Della was living with them, a school teacher. Twenty-one year old Herald was also with them, working on the farm. Also in the household were Reed, Alta, Minola, and Gladys aged 11-19.

Ephraim Lambert was also identified as a farmer. The family listed next to Ephraim in the census was Etienne Patry, who was his neighbor in 1910, and the Hardinger families, showing that it was Joseph that had moved, leaving Ephraim on the original homestead. All the neighbors were farmers. Living with Ephraim were his wife Agnes and their daughter Ida (age 23) the grade school teacher. Their 36 year old daughter Mary Alice and her husband James F. Hoyt were also living with them. He was listed as a salesman, evidently having resigned as principal of the high school.[359]

The census in Provo showed David Mackay and Maria at 158 S. 2nd East, living with Maria's widowed mother Margaret Cahoon and their three youngest children John Thursa, and

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[358] *Roosevelt Standard*, October 29, 1919, p.7.

[359] Hoyt served as a counselor to Bishop Burgess in the Roosevelt First Ward and in 1923 as superintendent of Duchesne County Schools. He died of endocarditis at the age of 64.

Annie, ages 18,16, and 12. Orson Mackay was also in Provo in his own household with his wife and two small children a mile away in Provo at 558 N. 1st West, working for the railroad as a machinist helper. David's son Clyde was living with his newlywed wife Veda at 557 N. 5th West. He was a farm laborer. They were living with Veda's brother Stan and her sister Maline, ages 19, and 12 respectively, evidently across the street from Orson. By June 13, 1920, Orson and Mary were back in Roosevelt, when their fourth child Angus was born.

According to the local paper, "Barry Harris has opened a real estate office in the Lambert block. Mr. Harris was teaching school at Hartford the past winter and will now be with us permanently."[360]

On June 27, 1920, the Apostle James Talmadge divided the Duchesne Stake into the Roosevelt and Duchesne Stakes. Ephraim Lambert was a counselor in the Roosevelt Stake presidency under Owen Bennion.[361]

According to the ever watchful Roosevelt newspaper, "David Mackey (sic) and family spent Sunday and Monday with their daughter Mrs. J. R. Lambert. Mr. Mackey has leased the Glenn Ranch on Green River and is running his sheep in that section.[362]

Theron Lambert described Roosevelt according to his memories between his fifth and eighth years.

> All the "legal" businesses at the earliest years of my awareness consisted of two hotels, a hardware store, a drug store, a Golden Rule mercantile bank, pool hall, two grocery stores, two blacksmith shops, a livery stable, flour mill, and a few offices such as the Uintah Power and Light office, post office and a law office.[363]

David Orson Mackay III was born to Orson and Mary in the town of National on August 15, 1921. National was a coal mining community in Carbon County which was founded in the 1920s by the National Coal Company. The Mackays were among the first people to live in this company town. Orson was apparently there to help build the railroad to National from Helper, which was built that year to support mining of the National and the Gordon Creek Coal companies. Gordon Creek joins the Price River about five miles south of Helper. Spring Canyon, where the National mine is located, is directly west of Helper.[364] Orson was back in Roosevelt by December 23, 1924, when Donald was born.

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[360] *Roosevelt Standard*, May 12, 1920, p. 5.
[361] Jensen p. 200.
[362] *Roosevelt Standard*, July 14, 1920, p. 5.
[363] Theron Lambert Notes.
[364] Unfortunately, National was abandoned around 1938 when the National Coal Company shut down its operations because of the Great Depression, and the mine was sold under foreclosure. It is now a ghost town

According to the newspaper, "On September 29, 1920, Robert Lambert purchased the T. R. Todd residence in the Smart addition and moved onto the place Friday."[365] This is the house on the southeast corner of 300 N. and 200 W. in which the Lamberts lived until they moved into their commercial building nine years later.

Lambert house on 300 N. and 200 W. (Photo by Roger Lambert)

David Mackay was in Leeton on March 21, 1921, organizing an oil district. He was said to have been making "many leases."[366] Leeton is in the reservation about 10 miles north of Roosevelt, halfway to Whiterocks. It is not clear to me whether he was living there or simply visiting from Provo.

Despite the election of Republican President Warren G. Harding, Robert Lambert was re-appointed postmaster in Roosevelt on May 12, 1921. His salary was increased, to take effect on the first of July.[367]

Robert's 18 year old sister Minola Lambert was operated on for appendicitis at the Uintah Basin hospital in early June 1921.[368]

Robert Lambert received official notice of his appointment as postmaster for a four year term under the signature of President Harding on February 16, 1922, nearly six years after his appointment by the Democrat, Woodrow Wilson. The U.S. Senate confirmed his appointment February 23.[369]

"The businessman C. C. Larsen entertained about sixty people at the Lambert Hall Friday Evening. Dancing and various games of amusement, etc."[370]

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near the two other ghost towns of Consumers and Sweets. They shared a post office, school house, hospital, and amusement hall. The ghost town of Coal City was a few miles away.

[365] *Roosevelt Standard*, September 29, p. 5.

[366] *Myton Free Press*, March 17, 1921.

[367] Robert's salary was not posted, but the postmaster in Myton was to receive $1,800 per year.

[368] *Myton Free Press*, June 16, 1921, p.2.

[369] *Myton Free Press*, February 23, p. 5.

[370] *Roosevelt Standard*, March 29, 1922, p. 5.

Just before Maurice Lambert turned four he nearly died of diphtheria in April. Theron wrote that his family moved to a home in the northwest part of Roosevelt that year and he started first grade .

On May 11, 1923, the Peppard Seed Company opened an office in the Lambert building.[371]

David Mackay and his 26 year old son Clyde[372] came up from Ouray Valley Sunday and left for Provo on Monday with Minola Lambert according to the *Myton Free Press* Aug 3, 1922.[373]

Minola had never recovered from her appendicitis the previous year, and at some point during the next two weeks, the doctors in Provo referred her to Salt Lake City for more advanced care. On August 16th, Robert wrote a long letter of support to his 19 year old sister at LDS hospital in Salt Lake City, encouraging her to pray earnestly for recovery and that he was doing so in her behalf. Rob mentioned to Minola that he was "keeping bachelor's hall," an expression of the time for a man managing his household without his wife, but as far as he knew, "the others are doing all right." Winnie and the boys were not in Salt Lake City. Where would they have been? Maybe Robert was away from home making his high council visits.

Minola died September 23, 1922. She had endured three major and three minor surgeries for a fistula and osteomyelitis that had kept her bed ridden for a year. Her funeral was held in Roosevelt with a choir that featured her high school classmates. Speakers were E. G. DeFreeze[374] and her high school teacher James Hood,[375] who also sang a duet with his wife. Her uncle, Patriarch Ephraim Lambert, spoke.

In the fall of 1922 Elena Lambert Michie moved her family from Tabiona to Provo so that the children might have an education. They left most of the furniture behind and rented a

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[371] Myton Free Press, May 11, 1922, p.4.

[372] Clyde was married with a one year old son, born in Provo. His next child was born in Provo in 1924—seems to have been living there. Winnie was 31 and had two children at that time. Minola was her sister in law.

[373] I don't know why it was Winnie's father and brother that transported Minola. Maybe they had a vehicle that was safer. Also, it is interesting that they were in Ouray Valley at that time. Perhaps they were working the land at Pelican Lake.

[374] Ebenezer Godfrey DeFriez was born in London in 1851 and immigrated in 1872. He had been a sailor, who was baptized in Sydney. In St. George he had invented a block and tackle device for hoisting the baptismal font and wooden oxen into the temple. He lived in St. George until moving to Vernal before 1888. There he taught school and became the superintendent of schools to Uintah County and was appointed Probate Judge as an attorney. Sometime after WWI he and his wife moved to Roosevelt for a period to live with two of his married children.

[375] James Hood was Scottish, immigrated and baptized in 1879. He first lived in Almy, Wyoming, and then Salt Lake City. He had recently moved to Roosevelt, where he worked in the general store. He taught music and established choirs in every community in the Basin. His wife was a nurse.

house. Lambert and Rula went to school; Violet and Hilda worked. Myrtle, the oldest one had married.

Winnie's sister, Gertrude Rasmussen, and her family moved to Standardville in Carbon County. Standardville was a coal mining town that could only be accessed by railroad in the mountains about six miles west of Helper. It was called Standardville because it was a model mining town founded in 1912 by the Standard Coal Company, praised by the State Coal Mine Inspector for its infrastructure and amenities. It had a large company store, steam-heated apartments, a hospital, tennis courts, and an elementary school with four teachers and 200 students. By 1915 it employed 143 men and peaked at 550. On June 14, 1922 there was a violent labor strike in which miners attacked a train carrying new workers, killing a guard and injuring others.

The Rasmussens arrived shortly after the strike in the fall of 1922 and stayed until the spring of 1926, except during the summer of 1924, when Gertrude's daughter Lora was born in Price. Luckily, they came after the strike and left before the explosion in 1930, when 20 miners were killed.[376]

In the fall of 1923 Theron began first grade.

On September 29, 1924, Joseph's younger brother Herold Lambert married Emily Beal in Salt Lake City.

Ten days later, the newspaper[377] in Roosevelt carried a disturbing story concerning the Lamberts.

> The Lambert building, where two grades with over one hundred children are housed, came in for a scathing condemnation (by the PTA.) The building was declared to be a fire trap and unsafe in other ways. The rooms are reached by an outside staircase, the main props of which are cracked where they have been struck by mail trucks. In case of fire this staircase, which is the only exit, is inadequate and itself is a serious menace. The roof of the building is leaky and the ceiling joists apparently rotten.

Theron was 10 years old, possibly one of the students mentioned. A response to the condemnation with a reasonable explanation by Robert Lambert followed,[378] pointing out that the fire hazard was from stoves installed by the school itself, the amount of sagging of the floor was exaggerated, and that the contractor stated that the beams had been green and warped but were sound. He went on to say,

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[376] Standardville shut down in 1950 when demand for coal ended with the end of WWII. It is now a ghost town.
[377] *Roosevelt Standard*, October 8, 1924, p. 1.
[378] *Roosevelt Standard*, October 22, 1924, p. 1.

> That the rooms are unsuited and unsatisfactory for school, is true; they were not built for such purposes. The children, whether in school or on the grounds, are constantly troublesome to the post office, its patrons, and other tenants of the building, and as these must be given our first consideration, we cannot permit the children in the front hallways or on the front stairs. We will welcome the day when the school can find better quarters, and until then, we will accommodate them as best we can under the circumstances.

By October 22nd, several repairs had been made on the Lambert building and school was back in session there, returning from temporary quarters at the amusement hall.

Donald C. Mackay, Orson and Mary Hanna's sixth child, was born at Roosevelt on December 23, 1924. The family had moved from National so that so that Oral and Howard could attend school.[379]

David and Maria Mackay were reported to be entertaining "two of their little grandsons" in Hayden in July. Hayden is five miles northwest of Leeton near Neola. A month later, their son Orson was reported in the Roosevelt newspaper to be staying with them there.[380]

Robert and Winnie's third son Wayne Lambert was born September 30, 1925, a bit of a surprise due to the age gap from his brothers, but Winnie was still only 33. Wayne was 11 years younger than Theron and seven years younger than Maurice.

At that time Winnie was not officially working at the post office but devoted her time to mothering and church work. Robert's younger sister Gladys worked as his assistant in her place.[381] That summer, Gladys married a WWI veteran from Illinois named Cecil Wilkinson, who worked as manager of a seed company in Roosevelt.

Robert's sister Alta, the fourth daughter of Joseph and Alice Lambert, married a carpenter named Emerson Hurley in Vernal on March 8, 1926. Their first child was born in Roosevelt. Emerson was a widower with an eight year old daughter.

Della Lambert, another of Robert's sisters, married Ruben Chancy Snyder in Vernal on June 30, 1926.[382]

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[379] *FamilySearch* memories, Mary Hanna Mackay Collins KWC1-YG6.
[380] *Roosevelt Standard*, July 29 and August 12, 1925, p. 4.
[381] *Roosevelt Standard*, March 4, 1926, p. 8.
[382] Ruben's father had leased 80 acres of Indian land about two miles south of Myton. They met at a dance at Midview across the river and north of their farm. Della was a school teacher there. He had been a Presbyterian, but through Della he became a Mormon. They were living in Myton when June Anna Snyder was born April 8, 1927. Their second child, Iona was born there May 6, 1931. Later after their house burned down, they moved to Neola. Ruben was born in Moab in 1897.

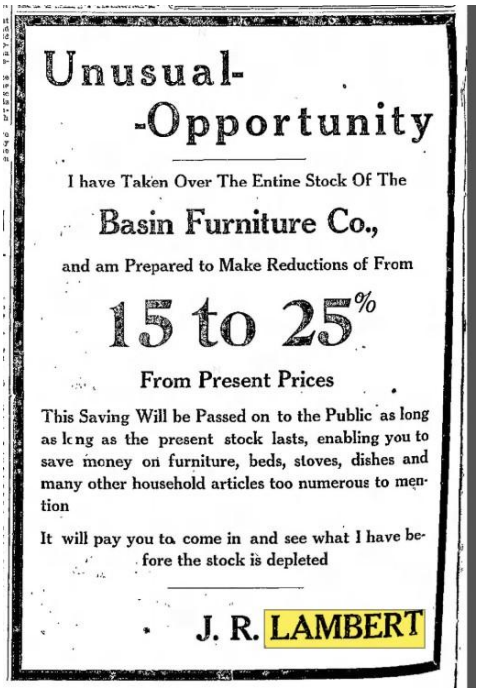
Postmaster Lambert remained consistently in the news that year. For example, on July 7, "Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Lambert went to Vernal Tuesday on business."[383] And the next month, "The Lambert building, housing the post office and the Basin Furniture store is receiving a new coat of paint this week." Another new tenant. Rural free delivery service was established in November 1926. Mail was going out three times per week directly to homes with the prospect of going to daily and extended routes, but by June, the program was in danger of discontinuation for lack of public support.

Luke Clegg replaced Robert Lambert as postmaster in 1927. This was a big financial hit to Robert and Winnie from which they would never recover. The Republicans were evidently flexing their political muscles, and there would not be another Democrat appointed postmaster until Franklin Roosevelt was sworn in as president six years later. Robert had served for over 10 years including two official four-year appointments in 1916 and 1922. Interestingly, after Robert was replaced, Winnie's brother Orson Mackay was appointed assistant postmaster, and Robert's clerk, Lavon Smith, kept her job. Robert himself continued to work there during the transition until all the annual reports were completed, after which Luke Clegg moved the post office back to the Ashton building. Orson Mackay resigned his position as assistant postmaster in 1928.[384] Clegg served until 1935.

After he lost his job, Robert gave talks on genealogy in several of the wards, evidently an expert at it.

[383] *Roosevelt Standard*, July 7, 1926, 8.
[384] *Roosevelt Standard*, March 29, 1928, p. 8.

Now it was time to put his training at LDS Business College 14 years ago to work. He ran his first advertisement.[385]


Unusual-
-Opportunity

I have Taken Over The Entine Stock Of The

Basin Furniture Co.,

and am Prepared to Make Reductions of From

15 to 25%

From Present Prices

This Saving Will be Passed on to the Public as long as long as the present stock lasts, enabling you to save money on furniture, beds, stoves, dishes and many other household articles too numerous to mention

It will pay you to come in and see what I have before the stock is depleted

J. R. LAMBERT

He had taken over the entire stock of the Basin Furniture Company and was selling it at 15-25% off the previous prices, evidently not from his own building, but from the furniture store next door. Four similar ads followed, concluding with Christmas and New Year's greetings and offers of "unbelievable savings on furniture."

On February 9, 1928, he ran an ad that ran for two weeks selling purebred Rhode Island cockerels,[386] and also a small incubator. On March 1st, he was still selling stock from the furniture store plus "paint, shoes shotgun shells, etc."

Ephraim's daughter Ida died March 21, 1928 at the age of 32 after surgery in Price for "post-partum salpingitis." Her baby boy, born five weeks earlier, was named Jewel. Ida was the schoolteacher who had married Leo Birch a year and four months earlier. Sadly, Leo died nine months after Ida's death in a mine cave-in, so Jewel was adopted by his 46 year old aunt, Mary Alice Hoyt, who never had children. In addition to Ida and David, who died at the age of ten, Ephraim had two more children die young. Muriel died in 1912 at the age of 13 and James Frank at the age of nine in 1913 of diphtheria.

Robert's youngest brother Reed Lambert married Lavon Earl on March 30, 1928.

Robert's first ad for groceries appeared on April 12, 1928. It read, "J. R. Lambert (successor to Basin Furniture Co.), groceries and cloth and seeds. Free matinee tickets to first 10 persons to answer this ad." He was not working alone. The newspaper in Duchesne carried this short notice on May 11th: "Venice Richardson is home for the summer. She has been clerking a the J.R. Lambert store in Roosevelt."[387] On August 30, 1928, Robert wrote to Winnie in Provo looking for fresh fruit to sell. She must have been visiting her sister Thursa.

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[385] *Roosevelt Standard,* September 22, 1927, p. 4.
[386] A cockerel is a male chicken under a year old.
[387] *Duchesne Courier*, May 11, 1928, p.4.

Ephraim's wife Agnes Michie died at Heber City on June 6th at the age of 69. Two years later he married Lula Emma Summerall.

Robert and Winnie moved out of their home in the north west part of town into the upper floor of their downtown store, which no longer housed the post office. The paper announced on September 20, 1928,[388]

> Mrs. Louis Neeley[389] came to Roosevelt on Saturday to spend the winter here. Mr. and Mrs. Neeley have moved into the J. Robert Lambert home. The Lamberts have moved into the apartments above the store. Mr. Neeley is coach at the Duchesne County High School.

Later, Alta and Emerson Hurley, lived in their house, and much later their son Meredith "Spike" Hurley lived in a house that was built in the garden.[390]

The home above the Lamberts' store consisted of a kitchen, utility room, hall, dining room, living room, three bedrooms, and storage room. The family moved into it when Theron was nearly sixteen. Maurice was ten and Wayne turned three about a week later. Maurice recalls hauling water into the house to do laundry in a large tub. Winnie made clothes for the family on a foot pedal sewing machine. Around that time, Robert and Winnie bought a used soft-topped Chevy. Winnie learned to drive it until one day when she went to pick the boys up at school for lunch. It got stuck in reverse and Winnie was terrified when she almost hit some children. She never drove again.[391] This had to have happened after 1931 when Wayne turned six. Wayne remembered riding in the car with his father out in the county to collect on debts.

1923 soft topped Chevy (stock photo.)

The LDS Apostle David O. Mackay spoke at stake quarterly conference in November. Theron gave a talk on self-mastery. Ephraim Lambert also spoke.

That November, Robert's store was hit with a special tax of $12.54 for street improvements on Main Street. The store was referred to as "Lambert's Hardware." He was also delinquent on his property tax of $345.72.

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[388] *Roosevelt Standard*, p. 6.
[389] The Neeleys were newlyweds from Farmington. They moved to Evanston by 1934. The Lamberts did not sell their house but rented it to the young couple.
[390] *FamilySearch* memories, Joseph Robert Lambert biography by Wayne Lambert KWZQ-NPQ.
[391] *FamilySearch* memories, Winnie Mackay Lambert p. 14, KWZQ-NPM.

Apparently, the back of the store or one of the upstairs rooms was being rented out as living quarters. On March 7,1929 the newspaper[392] reported that Robert discovered his 72 year old tenant "brother Adlard" dead in his room in the Lambert building when he went to invite him to breakfast.[393]

The same day the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers met in the Roosevelt amusement hall entertaining their husbands. The band played three selections. According to the news report, "Maurice Lambert, the little son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lambert beat time for the band." This was the first time the Roosevelt band had appeared in public, and Maurice was eleven years old.

From Winnie's biography:

> In one of the small homes the family lived in, an old pump organ had been left—in pieces. This was reassembled, and with a small amount of help from his parents Maurice began his musical career, teaching himself at age five. By the time he was ten years old he was the Sunday School organist, and at 12 or 13 he was playing in a dance band, having to lie about his age since the band traveled.[394]

In June, Maria and David Mackay came up from Provo to visit their children Orson, Winnie, and Gertrude Rasmussen.

The N.Y. Stock Market Crash took place in October 1929, no doubt further worsening the Lamberts' financial condition. Robert's property on Main Street was listed that December as delinquent in property tax for $12.03.

That winter, coal was advertised at Lambert's Mercantile in large or small quantities. The price by load or ton was $9.

Robert was looking for more financial opportunities. In the Neola news section of the paper,[395] it was announced that,

> J. R. Lambert of Roosevelt traded his home in Roosevelt last week to German B. Workman of this town for the Workman Mercantile Company. Mr. Lambert took over the management of the business on Monday, December 10. He is also owner of a business at Roosevelt. His family will attend to the business there this winter and

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[392] *Roosevelt Standard*, March 7, 1929, p. 1.
[393] Frank Adlard was an unmarried 72 year old immigrant from London, who had lived in Roosevelt since at latest 1920, working as a common laborer.
[394] *FamilySearch* memories, Winnie Mackay Lambert p. 14, KWZQ-NPM.
[395] *Roosevelt Standard*, December 19, 1929.

will probably move to Neola in the spring, and Mr. Workman moved his family to Roosevelt Friday, where he will locate at present.

Neola is ten miles north of Roosevelt. At this point, the boys were 15, 11, and four years old. I don't know which home Robert had traded—possibly the small one on First East. I suppose Winnie had to run the Neola store that winter, and the boys were in school. On January 9, the paper reported that Workman and Robert Lambert, "owner of a store in Neola" made a business trip to Salt lake City.[396]

SPECIAL! SPECIAL!!
Xmas Sale!
Groceries 5 Percent Off
Rather Than Hold Holiday Goods Over We Will Sell at Sacrifice Prices
OUR LOSS—YOUR GAIN
All that is left at cost and less
ROOSEVELT Utah
J. R. Lambert
NEOLA Utah

That year Winnie was treasurer of the library board.

Robert and Winnie attended April Conference in Salt Lake City.

Robert's younger sister, Gladys Lambert Wilkinson, lived next door to Winnie's brother Orson and Mary Mackay in Roosevelt. Cecil Wilkinson was manager of a seed company and Orson was doing odd jobs. Both families were renting and had young children. According to the census they were only three houses away from Robert and Winnie, so apparently they all lived on Main Street. Robert's home was valued at $5,000, much more than any of his neighbors', which is consistent with his large brick building.

By this time, the population on the Ute Reservation had dropped from 1,660 to 917. Many Utes had left the area during the White homesteading period.[397]

Joseph Lambert met with the city council in July to say that changes in the roads had cut off his irrigation water, and the watermaster was instructed to look into it. This suggests that he still had his farm.

Theron Lambert was president of his senior class in high school in 1931, and Maurice was president of the freshman class in 1932. Theron was a debater, and he defended the affirmative side of the question, "Resolved: That Chain Stores are a Menace to the American people."[398] Given his family background, it is no surprise that he took that position. He also took part in drama.

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[396] I have found no more information on the Neola deal and assume that it soon came apart.
[397] However, in the 1990's there were nearly 3,000.
[398] *Roosevelt Standard*, February 11, 1932. p. 8.

Sometime before 1932 Robert Lambert was enfranchised by the State of Utah to issue fishing licenses.

According to the Roosevelt newspaper, Winnie went with Theron, who had graduated from Duchesne County High School to Provo on September 22, 1932, where Theron was to enter school at BYU, one of 53 students from Roosevelt to do so. What the paper didn't mention is that Maurice went with Theron to begin high school in Provo. In November Winnie pulled Wayne out of second grade in Roosevelt and joined Theron and Maurice. They were living with the family of Thursa Green, Winnie's sister.

Evidently Winnie went back and forth between Roosevelt and Provo the next three years, sometimes riding with "Brother Mower,"[399] in their old car, which evidently didn't have any heating. In one of Robert's letters, he asked her to bring 100 loaves of bread from Barker's Provo Bakery, making sure that they were fresh.

Meanwhile, year-end tax and irrigation records appeared in the newspapers that reflected continued hard times for the Lambert family, and not just Robert. Joseph Lambert's irrigation fee was delinquent for 80 acres, but he was now listed as "Pledgee, state of Utah."[400] Robert was still delinquent on his lots on Block 17 and 18. The next year, unemployment peaked at 35.8% in Utah.

By this time non-Utes had taken over virtually all of the Strawberry Valley. Thirty-two allotments (28,709 acres) had been fee-patented and sold to non-Utes, resulting in a checkerboard condition between Ute lands and those taken by settlers and purchasers. In 1934, as part of the New Deal, Congress passed the Wheeler-Howard, or Indian Reorganization Act, aimed at promoting Indian self-determination. Most Utah Indian groups accepted the IRA and elected tribal governments or business committees, passed laws, and began planning strategies for reservation economic development. Federal conservation jobs and relief were important factors in seeing Utah Indian groups through the Great Depression era.
https://www.uen.org/utah_history_encyclopedia/n/NATIVE_AMERICANS.shtml

Bill Gibson died in Vernal on December 10, 1932. Joseph Lambert, the widow's half-brother was the closing speaker at his funeral.

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[399] Melvin Mower was a farmer who had grown up in Fairview but lived in Roosevelt. He farmed, kept honey bees and later mined gilsonite.

[400] This reflects a legal claim against the property owner toward selling the property to satisfy the debt in which the pledgee transfers possession, but not ownership of an item to a creditor.
www.contracthound.com

In January 1933 Robert went to Provo to visit with his family for a few days. Winnie and the three boys were still living with Aunt Thursa, where Wayne attended second and third grades. Theron drove them all back to Roosevelt for Wayne's baptism on September 30th. Wayne remained there for fourth grade.

Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated as President and immediately ordered a nationwide bank holiday for one week on March 6th.

On March 27th, Robert wrote to Winnie in Provo in answer to her letter of the 24th. "You are right. We ought to get together and decide what we can do under the circumstances." They were considering going to general conference together. He felt that she deserved it after taking care of the boys on her own, but it would be cheaper to listen on the radio. He was planning to take their new radio back to the hardware store, but that could be delayed until after conference. Robert suggested that Winnie get in contact with Perry Harper, a farmer from Pleasant Grove, who would be coming out around the 4th or 5th. Maybe they could meet with him at the service station at the mouth of the canyon.[401]

They were all back home for the summer by June, when Wayne sang in the Father's Day Program in the Roosevelt Ward.

On November 2, 1933, a ballot was printed in the newspaper showing J. Robert Lambert running for city treasurer. There were two parties: Citizens (his) and People's. Robert ran against Presley Timothy and an independent named Thora Sabey. Here is the headline on November 9:

> ROBERT J. LAMBERT TRAILS BEHIND THORA SABEY IN EARLY COUNT BUT SURGES AHEAD IN ELEVENTH HOUR RUSH TO POLLS, WINNING BY 14 MAJORITY.

Of 429 registered voters, 393 participated, the heaviest in a decade. The turnout was attributed to the "prohibition question" and one of the nicest fall days yet experienced. The real fight had been between the four year councilmen and the city treasurer job. Robert got 174 votes. Sabey got 152, and Timothy got 60.

Winnie and the boys returned to Roosevelt for Thanksgiving and then returned to school. They also came back for the Christmas Holidays and then stayed in Provo until school let out. That summer the Roosevelt newspaper reported that Maurice played a piano solo at MIA in July, and in August, Theron spoke at MIA.

Apparently Winnie and Wayne remained in Roosevelt that fall, but the older boys returned to Provo. They were probably living at the house on 700 East and 300 South, where Winnie

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[401] This letter is not published, but is in the possession of Linda Lambert Bateman.

had helped them to set up a little grocery store to help defray expenses. Theron was set to graduate from BYU that year. He was editor of the year book which won first prize in the nation for its class last year, and he was sports editor of the school newspaper. It was the second year of high school for Maurice. Theron and Maurice Lambert's church records were transferred to the Provo 4th Ward in November of 1934.

Robert, who was still serving as a precinct chairman for the Democratic party, recruited delegates to the party convention for Duchesne County. He was still running ads in the newspaper for the J.R. Lambert store, and he was still on the property tax delinquency list at the end of 1934, owing $238.57 on the store and $7.08 for lot five on First East.

Robert and Winnie were not the only family members suffering financially. Winnie's brother Orson moved his family back to Provo, hoping to find work. His boys were very eager to work and found employment with the local farmers.[402]

Wayne wrote: "For one year during that trying time we moved back to a house about two or three blocks away from our first house. My brothers were away at school in Provo." That sounds like they had lost the store and had to move into the house on block 18 to the west of them, which they had been renting out.

In February Winnie was in the Roosevelt paper for directing the dance for the Gleaner Girls Ball, and at the end of March, Theron was one of a number of BYU students who returned to Roosevelt for a short holiday.

On June 7, 1935, a case appeared on the court calendar for the Fourth Judicial District for June 10th: "Franklin Building and Loan co. vs. Joseph R. Lambert and Winnie M. Lambert." I suspect they had not been able to make their mortgage payments and were losing the store. Robert and Winnie's financial difficulties were compounded by Joseph Lambert's. According to Winnie, Robert's father was a partner in their building, and he had stopped paying his part of the mortgage.[403]

Two weeks later, Theron and Maurice arrived from Provo, but Theron soon returned because he had a job there.

Still trying to make ends meet, Robert continued to buy ads for his store. In August he offered a $65 automatic electric washer of "latest design" for $18.

He tried to move up from city treasurer to city recorder in October, possibly for a higher paying position, but he lost the election. He continued as city treasurer until the end of the

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[402] *FamilySearch* memories, Angus Colins Mackay biography KW8D-YM5. Angus died in France in 1944.
[403] *FamilySearch* memories, Winnie Mackay Lambert, p. 15, KWZQ-NPM.

year and was present to welcome his opponent John E. Wiscombe and the new treasurer Arnold Rees. Robert was still on the stake high council, but the pay wasn't very good.

Wayne had been in Roosevelt for fourth grade and started fifth grade there but transferred to Provo in November 1936. That is probably when Winnie moved there permanently. All the boys including Wayne worked at the small grocery store that she had set up.

Only lot 5, block 18 remained on the delinquent property tax notice for December 1935, This was Robert's smallest property. He was no longer delinquent on the store or the house northwest of town, presumably because he no longer owned them. It appears that he had moved to the little house, but on December 12, 1935 he was advertising Christmas bargains for mincemeat, figs, dates, chocolates, candies, and nuts. A property tax delinquency notice appeared for the first time in Winnie's name on Block 1, lots 1-2. This property is just a block east of the house where she had raised her children, and where Alta and Emerson Hurley now lived. Winnie may have owned it for a long time had paid on time until then. The fee was $27.28, high enough to suggest there was a small house there.

The LDS church introduced its welfare program that winter, calling it the Church Security Plan.

According to the newspaper, "A new building is planned south of the J.R. Lambert building, The Mutual Creamery Company. Will be of stucco construction with cement floor and 24 x 16 feet in size."[404] The creamery opened next door to the Lambert building on December 10, 1936. That month Robert Lambert joined other merchants in adopting unified opening and closing hours and was evidently still operating the store.

In June, Theron graduated from BYU.

Robert's last delinquency notice appeared at the end of 1936 for Block 18, lot 5. There were none in 1937. The family had evidently lost or sold all of their properties.

Joseph Lambert spoke at the funeral of his sister Rebecca Lambert Merrett in Upalco in February 1937, and he was still writing letters to his boys in Provo. On May 15th he forcefully expressed to Theron his dissatisfaction with BYU's failure to sufficiently support religious instruction and his unwillingness to have Theron join the Navy.

[404] *Roosevelt Standard*, May 21, 1936, p. 1.

The *Wasatch Wave* reported a Lambert reunion on June 19, 1937 for the descendants of John Lambert. They met at Luke's Resort (the hot springs in Midway), and about 120 members attended. The meeting was presided over by Joseph Lambert. John Carlos Lambert and Franklin Lambert were vice-presidents. They planned a reunion next year in Kamas.

Joseph and Alice Lambert ca. 1940

Winnie Lambert's biography states that she and Robert moved to Provo in 1937, where they rented a little place close to the old girls' gymnasium and then got into a home a year later at 470 N. 500 East.

In December 1937, the *Roosevelt Standard* reported that Robert Lambert *of Provo* attended the funeral of his old Stake President, William Smart. Robert had left Roosevelt for good.

Maria Antoinette Cahoon Mackay died in Provo June 16, 1940. She was 79 and died of "uncompensated heart after hypertension for several years."

Joseph Lambert died at the age of 91 in Roosevelt March 25, 1948, of myocarditis.

According to her daughter Gladys, Alice Michie Lambert died of strep throat during a coughing fit at the age of 85 on May 9, 1951. Her death certificate gives cerebral hemorrhage as the cause.

While bedridden, David Mackay was interviewed orally and gave his life history five weeks before he died in Provo on September 8, 1946 "following a lingering illness" at the age of 84. He was buried in the Salt Lake Cemetery. According to his death certificate, he died of arteriosclerosis.[405]

I have tried to learn the later history of Robert and Winnie's brick building on Main Street.

[405] His home address was 710 N. Haws Avenue, Provo. Orson Jr. was at 167 E. 4th N. Provo.

In 1941 the building was in the hands of General Finance Company, the successor to Franklin Finance Company, Robert's mortgage holder.

Orin "Hank" Swain and Clive Sprouse opened the Uintah Motor company distributors for Studebaker and Case farm machinery in the "recently renovated Swain building" on block 17 lots 6-7 on March 1, 1946, the Lamberts' old building. Evidently the Swain family lived upstairs. Swain ran unsuccessfully for mayor in 1949 and was elected president of the Lions club. He ran successfully for Justice of the Peace in 1954 and ran unsuccessfully for the State Legislature in 1956.

By December 1973 the building was owned by Alva Snow of St. George, who came to the Basin in 1944 as state Inspector of Agriculture. In 1948 Snow became an authorized dealer of Ford Tractors in the Gilbert Garage building on the corner of 80 South Main Street and also took over the Chevron station. He served as bishop in 1954 and stake president in 1977. After a career in cattle sales, he began selling homes around 1972. The building may have been bought as an investment. I don't have any evidence that Snow used it for a realty office—he seems to have worked out of his home.

The building still can be found on Main Street in Roosevelt, and someone is living in the apartment on the second floor.